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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

Coordination Proceeding Special Title  
(Rule 3.550)

**CALIFORNIA NORTH BAY FIRE  
CASES**

Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding  
No. 4955

**MASTER COMPLAINT – SUBROGATION  
PLAINTIFFS**

Judge: Honorable Curtis E.A. Karnow  
Department: 304

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

ELECTRONICALLY  
**FILED**

*Superior Court of California,  
County of San Francisco*

**03/12/2018**  
**Clerk of the Court**

BY: JUDITH NUNEZ

Deputy Clerk

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1           **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** bring this action for damages against Defendants  
2 **PG&E CORPORATION, PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY,** and **DOES 1**  
3 **through 100** (collectively, “**DEFENDANTS**”) as follows:

4 **I.     INTRODUCTION**<sup>1</sup>

5           1.     This case arises from **PG&E CORPORATION** and/or **PACIFIC GAS &**  
6 **ELECTRIC COMPANY’s** (collectively, “**PG&E**”) longstanding corporate culture of decision-  
7 making that places profits over public safety. **PG&E’s** well-documented disregard for safety  
8 regulations and risk management practices, along with their blind eye towards the use of  
9 effective maintenance and inspection practices for their facilities and equipment, lies at the root  
10 of the various factors which caused and/or contributed to causing the most destructive and deadly  
11 wildfires California has ever seen (collectively, the “North Bay Fires”).

12           2.     On or around the night of Sunday, October 8, 2017, the North Bay Fires started  
13 when a system disturbance on the electrical grid constructed, owned, operated, managed, and/or  
14 maintained by **PG&E** caused transformers designed, constructed, owned, operated, managed,  
15 and/or maintained by **PG&E** to fail, fault, spark, and/or explode, causing energized power lines  
16 constructed, owned, operated, managed, and/or maintained by **PG&E** to burn and/or fall down.  
17 These downed lines sparked nearby vegetation, igniting fires simultaneously across multiple  
18 counties. Other fires caused electrical currents to flow through down guys owned, designed,  
19 operated, managed and/or maintained by **PG&E**, creating arcing at ground level in dry grass.  
20 The arcing from down guys at or around ground level sparked fires in and around vegetation.  
21 All of these events, and others, including but not limited to conductors, poles, insulators,

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23           <sup>1</sup> The Master Complaint filed on behalf of Individual Plaintiffs contained 283 numbered  
24 paragraphs with 11 Causes of Action. Many of the Individual Plaintiffs are insured with one or more of  
25 the Subrogation Plaintiffs, and therefore Subrogation Plaintiffs “stand in the shoes” of their insureds  
26 under the law of subrogation. To make it easier on the Court, Subrogation Plaintiffs have mirrored the  
27 Master Complaint of the Individual Plaintiffs where possible. The Individual Plaintiffs’ Master  
28 Complaint Second Cause of Action-Wrongful Death, Third Cause of Action-Survival Action, Seventh  
Cause of Action-Premises Liability, and Eleventh Cause of Action-Negligent Infliction of Emotional  
Distress have been omitted from this Master Complaint as not applying to the Subrogation Plaintiffs.  
Again, to make it more convenient for the Court, the Causes of Action alleged herein match by number  
the Causes of Action alleged by the Individual Plaintiffs.

1 reclosers, and/or other electrical equipment constructed, owned, operated, managed, and/or  
2 maintained by **PG&E** that fell down, broke, failed, sparked, exploded, and/or came into contact  
3 with vegetation, caused and contributed to causing the North Bay Fires. Although the numerous  
4 fires constituting the North Bay Fires have different points or origin, they all share the same  
5 underlying causes and arose from **PG&E's** disregard of mandated safety practices and  
6 foreseeable hazardous risks associated with its infrastructure.



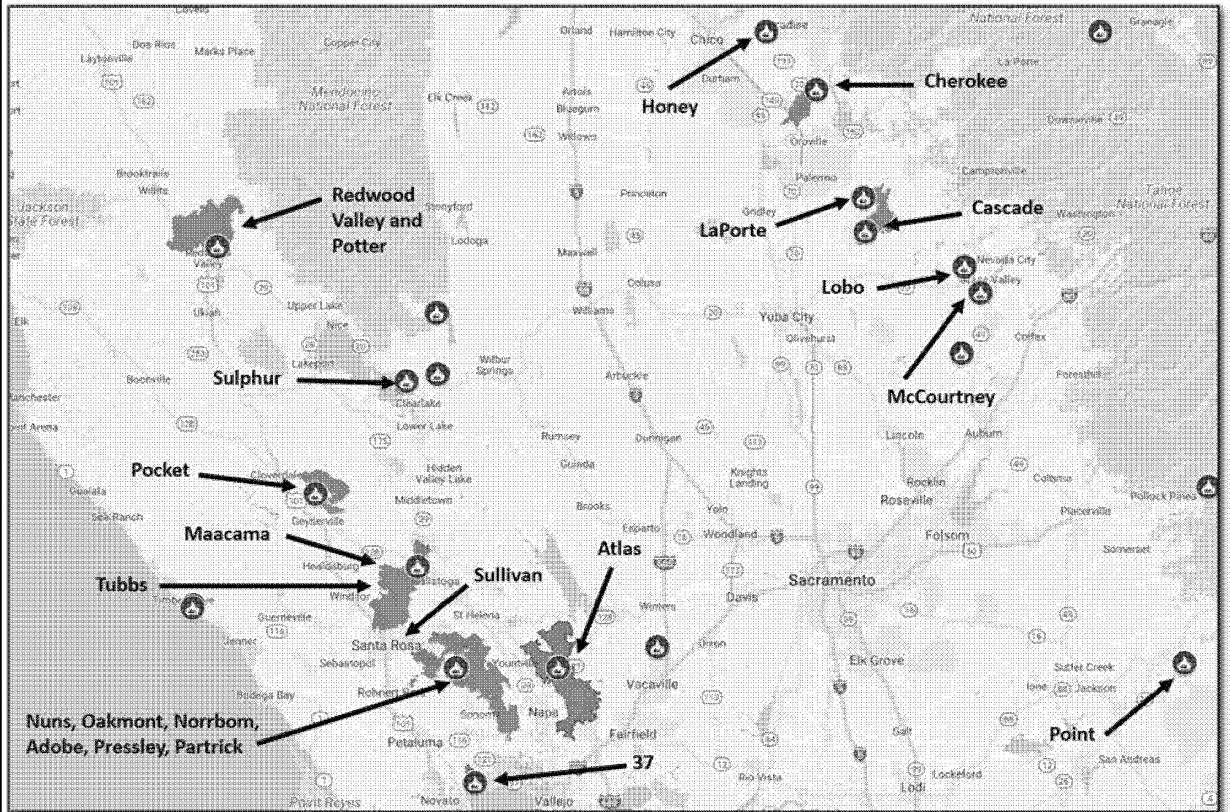
20 **PG&E Equipment on October 9, 2017, in Fountaingrove, a Neighborhood Decimated by the Tubbs Fire<sup>2</sup>**

21 3. Over the following days, the North Bay Fires spread rapidly and caused extensive  
22 damage throughout Northern California, including populated neighborhoods and sprawling  
23 vineyards. The North Bay Fires claimed the lives of at least 44 individuals, injured many others,  
24 burned over 245,000 acres, and destroyed over 14,700 homes. The following fires in Sonoma,  
25 Napa, Mendocino, Solano, Lake, Butte, Calaveras, Nevada, and Yuba Counties are collectively  
26 referred to as the North Bay Fires, including: the Adobe, Atlas, Cascade, Cherokee, Honey,

27  
28 <sup>2</sup> <http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/10/25/pge-missed-electricity-inspections-violated-safety-rules-in-bay-area-including-north-bay-audits/> (last accessed February 2, 2018).



LaPorte, Lobo, Maacama, McCourtney, Norrbom, Nuns, Oakmont, Partrick, Pocket, Point, Pressley, Redwood Valley, Potter, Sulphur, Tubbs, Sullivan, and the 37 Fire.



Map of the North Bay Fires<sup>3</sup>

4. As set forth in more detail in the following pages, based on multiple reports, audits, investigations, and/or interviews, it is clear that the North Bay Fires were an inevitable byproduct of PG&E's disregard of public safety. PG&E, although mandated to do so, failed to identify, inspect, manage, and/or control vegetation growth near its power lines and/or other electrical equipment. This created a foreseeable danger of trees and/or other vegetation coming into contact with PG&E's power lines and/or other electrical equipment and causing electrical problems. Further, PG&E failed to construct, manage, track, monitor, maintain, operate, replace, repair, and/or improve its power lines, poles, transformers, conductors, insulators,

<sup>3</sup> Derived from Cal Fire map at <http://www.fire.ca.gov/general/firemaps> (last accessed February 12, 2018).

1 reclosers, and/or other electrical equipment in a safe manner, despite being aware that its  
2 infrastructure was aging, unsafe, likely to cause fires, and/or vulnerable to environmental  
3 conditions.

4 5. **PG&E** knew about the significant risk of wildfires and other disasters from its  
5 ineffective vegetation management programs, unsafe equipment, and/or aging infrastructure for  
6 decades before the North Bay Fires began and, as described below, has been repeatedly fined  
7 and/or convicted of crimes for causing wildfires, explosions, and other disasters by failing to  
8 mitigate these risks.

9 6. Wildfires, explosions, and other devastating events have resulted from **PG&E's**  
10 long history of choosing to divert funds from its public safety, vegetation management, and/or  
11 infrastructure maintenance programs to instead line its own corporate pockets.

## 12 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

13 7. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure  
14 §§ 395(a) and 410.10 because Defendants, and/or each of them, reside in, are incorporated in,  
15 and/or do significant business in the County of San Francisco, State of California. The amount  
16 in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.

17 8. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 404.3 and  
18 California Rules of Court, Rule 3.540. The Honorable Curtis E.A. Karnow of the Superior Court  
19 of California, County of San Francisco was assigned as the Coordination Trial Judge for this  
20 action.

## 21 **III. THE PARTIES**

### 22 **A. SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS**

23 9. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS**<sup>4</sup> in this case were and are insurers authorized  
24 to carry on the business of insurance within the State of California as an insurance company.  
25 The insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** owned property that suffered damages by  
26

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27 <sup>4</sup> The plural term "Subrogation Plaintiffs" is used for ease of reference. One insurance company  
28 could file an adoption form incorporating the terms of this Master Complaint, and the plural term applies  
equally to the single insurer.

1 the North Bay Fires, including but not limited to the Adobe, Atlas, Cascade, Cherokee, Honey,  
2 LaPorte, Lobo, Maacama, McCourtney, Norrbom, Nuns, Oakmont, Partrick, Pocket, Point,  
3 Pressley, Redwood Valley, Potter, Sulphur, Tubbs, Sullivan, and/or 37 Fire. As a result of the  
4 North Bay Fires, **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** have paid and/or will pay money to their  
5 respective insured(s) under their policies of insurance for losses caused by the North Bay Fires.  
6 Such payments include, but are not limited to repair of real and personal property, replacement  
7 of real and personal property, additional living expenses, loss of use and business interruption.  
8 The money was paid to their insured(s) pursuant to various homeowners, automobile,  
9 business/commercial and property insurance policies. This action seeks recovery of amounts  
10 paid, and to be paid, by **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** to their insured(s). **SUBROGATION**  
11 **PLAINTIFFS** who are obligated to make payments or have made payments to their insured(s)  
12 are equitably subrogated to the rights of their insured(s), "stand in their shoes," and are entitled  
13 to bring this claim for payments made or to be made. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS**  
14 investigated, adjusted and paid, and may in the future pay, said damage, injury and loss,  
15 consistent with its policies of insurance and its obligations under law, and said payments were  
16 not voluntary. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS'** damages are in a liquidated sum; the amount  
17 paid to their insureds. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS'** insureds have an existing, assignable  
18 cause of action against **DEFENDANTS**, which the insureds could have asserted for their own  
19 benefit had they not been compensated for their losses by **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS**. As  
20 such, **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** have suffered damages caused by an act or omission of  
21 **DEFENDANTS**, and **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** have equitable and/or legal subrogation  
22 rights against **DEFENDANTS** herein, to the extent of payments made. Justice requires that the  
23 loss be entirely shifted from **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** to **DEFENDANTS**, whose  
24 equitable position is inferior to that of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS**.

25 **B. DEFENDANTS**

26 10. At all times herein mentioned Defendants **PG&E CORPORATION** and  
27 **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY** were corporations authorized to do business and  
28 doing business in the State of California with their principal place of business in the County of

1 San Francisco, State of California. Defendant **PG&E CORPORATION** is an energy-based  
2 holding company headquartered in San Francisco. It is the parent company of Defendant  
3 **PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY**. **PG&E CORPORATION** and **PACIFIC**  
4 **GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY** provide public utility services, including the generation of  
5 electricity and the transmission and distribution of electricity and natural gas to millions of  
6 customers in Northern and Central California, including the residents of Butte, Calaveras, Lake,  
7 Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Solano, Sonoma, and Yuba Counties.

8 11. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** allege that **PG&E CORPORATION** and  
9 **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY** are jointly and severally liable for each other's  
10 wrongful acts and/or omissions as hereafter alleged, in that:

- 11 a. **PG&E CORPORATION** and **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY**  
12 operate as a single business enterprise operating out of the same building  
13 located at 77 Beale St, San Francisco, California for the purpose of  
14 effectuating and carrying out **PG&E CORPORATION's** business and  
15 operations and/or for the benefit of **PG&E CORPORATION**;
- 16 b. **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY** and **PG&E CORPORATION**  
17 do not operate as completely separate entities, but rather, integrate their  
18 resources to achieve a common business purpose;
- 19 c. **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY** is so organized and controlled,  
20 and its decisions, affairs and business so conducted as to make it an  
21 instrumentality, agent, conduit and/or adjunct of **PG&E CORPORATION**;
- 22 d. **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY's** income contribution results  
23 from its function, integration, centralization of management and economies of  
24 scale with **PG&E CORPORATION**;
- 25 e. **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY's** and **PG&E**  
26 **CORPORATION's** officers and management are intertwined and do not act  
27 completely independent of one another;



- 1 f. **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY's** and **PG&E**  
2 **CORPORATION's** officers and managers act in the interest of **PG&E**  
3 **CORPORATION** as a single enterprise;
- 4 g. **PG&E CORPORATION** has control and authority to choose and appoint  
5 **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY's** board members as well as its  
6 other top officers and managers;
- 7 h. Despite both being Electric Companies and Public Utilities, **PACIFIC GAS**  
8 **& ELECTRIC COMPANY** and **PG&E CORPORATION** do not compete  
9 with one another, but have been structured, organized, and businesses  
10 effectuated so as to create a synergistic, integrated single enterprise where  
11 various components operate in concert one with another;
- 12 i. **PG&E CORPORATION** maintains unified administrative control over  
13 **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY**;
- 14 j. **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY** and **PG&E CORPORATION**  
15 are insured by the same carriers and provide uniform or similar pension,  
16 health, life and disability insurance plans for employees;
- 17 k. **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY** and **PG&E CORPORATION**  
18 have unified 401(k) Plans, pensions and investment plans, bonus programs,  
19 vacation policies and paid time off from work schedules and policies;
- 20 l. **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY** and **PG&E CORPORATION**  
21 invest these funds from their programs and plans by a consolidated and/or  
22 coordinated Benefits Committee controlled by **PG&E CORPORATION** and  
23 administered by common trustees and administrators;
- 24 m. **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY** and **PG&E CORPORATION**  
25 have unified personnel policies and practices and/or a consolidated personnel  
26 organization or structure;
- 27 n. **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY** and **PG&E CORPORATION**  
28 have unified accounting policies and practices dictated by **PG&E**

1           **CORPORATION** and/or common or integrated accounting organizations or  
2           personnel;

3           o. **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY** and **PG&E CORPORATION**  
4           are represented by common legal counsel;

5           p. **PG&E CORPORATION's** officers, directors, and other management make  
6           policies and decisions to be effectuated by **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC**  
7           **COMPANY** and/or otherwise play roles in providing directions and making  
8           decisions for **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY**;

9           q. **PG&E CORPORATION's** officers, directors, and other management direct  
10          certain financial decisions for **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY**  
11          including the amount and nature of capital outlays;

12          r. **PG&E CORPORATION's** written guidelines, policies, and procedures  
13          control **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY**, its employees, policies,  
14          and practices;

15          s. **PG&E CORPORATION** files consolidated earnings statements factoring all  
16          revenue and losses from **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY** as well  
17          as consolidated tax returns, including those seeking tax relief; and/or, without  
18          limitation; and

19          t. **PG&E CORPORATION** generally directs and controls **PACIFIC GAS &**  
20          **ELECTRIC COMPANY's** relationship with, requests to, and responses to  
21          inquiries from, the Public Utilities Commission and uses such direction and  
22          control for the benefit of **PG&E CORPORATION**.

23           **C.     DOE DEFENDANTS**

24           12.    The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or  
25           otherwise of the Defendants **DOES 1 through 100**, inclusive, are unknown to **SUBROGATION**  
26           **PLAINTIFFS** who therefore sue said Defendants by such fictitious names pursuant to Code of  
27           Civil Procedure § 474. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** further allege that each of said  
28           fictitious Defendants is in some manner responsible for the acts and occurrences hereinafter set

1 forth. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** will amend this Master Complaint to show their true  
2 names and capacities when the same are ascertained, as well as the manner in which each  
3 fictitious Defendant is responsible.

4 **D. AGENCY & CONCERT OF ACTION**

5 13. At all times herein mentioned herein, **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them,  
6 hereinabove, were the agents, servants, employees, partners, aiders and abettors, co-conspirators,  
7 and/or joint venturers of each of the other **DEFENDANTS** named herein and were at all times  
8 operating and acting within the purpose and scope of said agency, service, employment,  
9 partnership, enterprise, conspiracy, and/or joint venture, and each **DEFENDANT** has ratified  
10 and approved the acts of each of the remaining **DEFENDANTS**. Each of the **DEFENDANTS**  
11 aided  
12 and abetted, encouraged, and rendered substantial assistance to the other **DEFENDANTS** in  
13 breaching their obligations to **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** and the insured(s) of  
14 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** as alleged herein. In taking action to aid and abet and  
15 substantially assist the commission of these wrongful acts and other wrongdoings complained of,  
16 as alleged herein, each of the **DEFENDANTS** acted with an awareness of his/her/its primary  
17 wrongdoing and realized that his/her/its conduct would substantially assist the accomplishment  
18 of the wrongful conduct, wrongful goals, and wrongdoing.

19 **IV. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

20 **A. PG&E IS REQUIRED TO SAFELY DESIGN, OPERATE, AND**  
21 **MAINTAIN ITS ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS**

22 14. **PG&E** owns, installs, constructs, operates, and maintains overhead power lines,  
23 together with supporting poles and appurtenances throughout Northern and Central California for  
24 the purpose of transmitting and distributing electricity to the general public. These lines and  
25 equipment were located at and around the origin points for the North Bay Fires.

26 15. Electrical infrastructure is inherently dangerous and hazardous, and **PG&E**  
27 recognizes it as such. The transmission and distribution of electricity requires **PG&E** to exercise  
28 an increased level of care in line with the increased risk of associated danger.

1           16. At all times **PG&E** had and continues to have a duty to properly construct,  
2 inspect, repair, maintain, manage, and/or operate its power lines and/or other electrical  
3 equipment. **PG&E** also has a duty to keep vegetation properly trimmed and maintained to  
4 prevent foreseeable contact with its electrical equipment.

5           17. In the construction, inspection, repair, maintenance, management, ownership,  
6 and/or operation of its power lines and other electrical equipment, **PG&E** had an obligation to  
7 comply with, *inter alia*: (a) Code of Civil Procedure § 733; (b) Public Resource Code §§ 4292,  
8 4293, and 4435; (c) Public Utilities Code § 451; and (d) General Order Nos. 95 and 165.

9           18. California's drought years increased the risk of wildfire and consequently  
10 heightened **PG&E's** duty of care in the prevention of wildfires. In January 2014, Governor  
11 Edmund Gerald Brown, Jr. declared a state of emergency due to California's continued drought.  
12 In June 2014, pursuant to Resolution ESRB-4, the California Public Utilities Commission  
13 ("CPUC") directed **PG&E** and all investor-owned utilities to take remedial measures to reduce  
14 the likelihood of fires started by or threatening utility facilities.<sup>5</sup> In addition, the CPUC informed  
15 **PG&E** it could seek recovery of incremental costs associated with these remedial measures  
16 outside of the standard funding process, agreeing to provide additional funding on top of  
17 vegetation management funding already authorized to ensure remedial measures would not go  
18 unperformed due to lack of funding.

19           19. In early 2017, the CPUC issued a Fact Sheet on "**PG&E** Vegetation Management  
20 Spending," directing **PG&E** to take increased efforts to reduce fire risk due to the drought  
21 emergency: "Although the Governor issued an Executive Order in April 2017 ending the  
22 Drought State of Emergency, the declaration directed state agencies 'to continue response  
23 activities that may be needed to manage the lingering drought impacts to people and wildlife.'  
24 The California Tree Mortality State of Emergency issued in October 2015 by Governor Brown  
25 regarding the bark beetle infestation and resulting tree mortality remains in effect. The CPUC  
26

27  
28 <sup>5</sup> <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M096/K415/96415169.pdf> (last  
accessed February 12, 2018).

1 has not rescinded ESRB-4, and work by the utilities to comply with it and the Tree Mortality  
2 Emergency continues.”<sup>6</sup>

3 20. **PG&E** knew or should have known that these statutory and regulatory standards  
4 are minimum standards. **PG&E** knew or should have known that it has: (a) a duty to identify  
5 vegetation that is dead, diseased, and/or dying, or that otherwise poses a foreseeable hazard to  
6 power lines and/or other electrical equipment; and (b) a duty manage the growth of vegetation  
7 near its power lines and equipment so as to prevent the foreseeable danger of contact between  
8 vegetation and power lines starting a fire.

9 21. Further, **PG&E** has a duty to manage, maintain, repair, and/or replace its aging  
10 infrastructure to protect public safety. These objectives could and should have been  
11 accomplished in a number of ways, including, but not limited to, putting electrical equipment in  
12 wildfire-prone areas underground, increasing inspections, developing and implementing  
13 protocols to shut down electrical operations in emergency situations, modernizing infrastructure,  
14 and/or obtaining an independent audit of its risk management programs to ensure effectiveness.

15 22. **PG&E** knew or should have known that failure to comply and conform to  
16 applicable standards and duties constituted negligence and would expose members of the general  
17 public to a risk of death, injury, and/or damage to their property.

## 18 **B. PG&E’S HISTORY OF SAFETY FAILURES**

### 19 **1. PG&E’S Long History of Safety Violations**

20 23. Over the past thirty-plus years, **PG&E** has been subject to numerous fines,  
21 penalties, and/or convictions as a result of its failure to abide by safety rules and regulations,  
22 including the following fines, penalties, and/or convictions. Despite these recurring  
23 punishments, **PG&E** refuses to modify its behavior, and has continued to conduct its business  
24 with a conscious disregard for the safety of the public, including the insured(s) of  
25 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS.**

26  
27  
28 <sup>6</sup> [http://cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUC\\_Public\\_Website/Content/Safety/PGE%20Vegetation%20Management%20Spending.pdf](http://cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUC_Public_Website/Content/Safety/PGE%20Vegetation%20Management%20Spending.pdf) (last accessed February 12, 2018).

1           24. As detailed below, the North Bay Fires are among the many tragedies that have  
2 resulted from **PG&E's** enduring failure to protect the public from the dangers associated with its  
3 operations. **PG&E** power lines, transformers, conductors, poles, insulators, and/or other  
4 electrical equipment have repeatedly started wildfires due to **PG&E's** ongoing failure to create,  
5 manage, implement, and/or maintain effective vegetation management programs for the areas  
6 near and around its electrical equipment. Further, **PG&E's** deteriorating and carelessly  
7 maintained infrastructure has caused multiple disasters throughout California.

8                   **2. The 1981 San Francisco Gas Explosion**

9           25. A **PG&E** gas main in downtown San Francisco exploded in 1981, forcing 30,000  
10 people to evacuate. It took workers nine hours to shut off the gas main's manual shut-off valves  
11 and stop the flow of gas that continued to feed the flames in the interim.

12                   **3. The 1991 Santa Rosa Gas Explosion**

13           26. Two people were killed and three others were injured when a **PG&E** gas line  
14 exploded in Santa Rosa in December 1991. The pipeline was improperly marked, failing to give  
15 proper notice to contractors working in the area. A contractor hit the pipe with a backhoe,  
16 causing the pipe to leak and explode several months later.

17                   **4. The 1994 Trauner Fire**

18           27. In 1994, **PG&E's** failure to maintain the vegetation surrounding its electrical  
19 equipment caused a devastating wildfire in Nevada County, California. This Fire, commonly  
20 known as the "Trauner Fire" or the "Rough and Ready Fire," burned approximately 500 acres in  
21 and around the town of Rough and Ready, destroyed 12 homes, and burned 22 structures,  
22 including a historic schoolhouse that was built in 1868.

23           28. Investigators determined that the Trauner Fire began when a 21,000-volt power  
24 line brushed against a tree limb that **PG&E** was supposed to keep trimmed. Through random  
25 spot inspections, the investigators found several hundred safety violations in the area near the  
26 Trauner Fire. Approximately 200 of these violations involved contact between vegetation and  
27 one of **PG&E's** power lines. As a result, on or around June 19, 1997, **PG&E** was convicted of  
28 739 counts of criminal negligence and required to pay \$24 million in penalties.



1           29.     After the trial, a 1998 CPUC report revealed that **PG&E** diverted \$77.6 million  
2 from its tree-trimming budget to other uses from 1987 to 1994. During that same time, **PG&E**  
3 under spent its authorized budgets for maintaining its systems by \$495 million and instead, used  
4 this money to boost corporate profits. Despite this public outing, **PG&E** continued its corporate  
5 culture of putting profits before safety.

6                   **5.     The 1996 Mission Substation Electrical Fire**

7           30.     At approximately 1:00 a.m. on November 27, 1996, a cable splice at **PG&E's**  
8 Mission Substation in San Francisco short-circuited, burning and melting the insulation around  
9 the splice. Smoke from the fire rose through a floor opening above the splice into a switch  
10 cabinet. That smoke was so thick that it caused a flashover between phases of the bus bars  
11 connecting the overhead N bus to the switch. This caused insulation on the N bus to ignite and a  
12 circuit breaker to open, resulting in the loss of power to a group of **PG&E** customers. The  
13 substation was unmanned at the time and the fire was only discovered by chance by an employee  
14 who had stopped by the substation to use the restroom.

15                   **6.     The 1999 Pendola Fire**

16           31.     A rotten pine, which the federal government determined **PG&E** should have  
17 removed, fell on a power line, starting the Pendola Fire in 1999. It burned for 11 days and  
18 scorched 11,725 acres, mainly in the Tahoe and Plumas National Forests. **PG&E** paid a \$14.75  
19 million settlement to the U.S. Forest Service in 2009. That year, the utility also reached a \$22.7  
20 million settlement with the CPUC after regulators found **PG&E** had not spent money earmarked  
21 for tree trimming and removal toward those purposes.

22                   **7.     The 2003 Mission District Substation Fire**

23           32.     In December 2003, a fire broke out at **PG&E's** Mission District Substation in San  
24 Francisco. Despite signs of trouble appearing at control centers, the fire burned for nearly two  
25 hours before **PG&E** operators showed up at the Substation, found it full of smoke, and finally  
26 called the fire department. The source of the fire was not located until five hours after it began.  
27 As a result, nearly one-third of San Francisco's residents and business owners lost power, with  
28 some waiting over 24 hours for their power to be restored.

1           33. The CPUC report of the investigation, which was released in 2004, illustrated  
2 **PG&E's** careless approach to safety and apparent inability to learn from its past mistakes. An  
3 excerpt from the report describes the following:

4           Soon after undertaking the investigation of the 2003 fire, CPSD [CPUC's  
5 Consumer Protection and Safety Division] discovered that another fire had  
6 occurred at Mission Substation in 1996. CPSD's investigation team conducted a  
7 thorough analysis of both fires and found strikingly similar contributing factors  
8 and root causes. CPSD's team further determined that **PG&E** had not  
9 implemented the recommendations resulting from its own investigation of the  
10 1996 fire. . . .**CPSD finds it quite troubling that PG&E did not implement its  
11 own recommendations from its own investigation of the 1996 fire.**<sup>7</sup>

12           The findings related to the Mission Substation Fire should have been a wake-up call to **PG&E** to  
13 revamp its operating procedures to prevent future disasters. Instead, **PG&E's** focus remained on  
14 corporate profits, while safety was relegated to the backburner.

#### 15           8.       **The 2004 Sims Fire**

16           34. In July 2004, the Sims Fire burned over 4,000 acres of forest land in the Six  
17 Rivers and Trinity National Forests. A federal lawsuit alleged that **PG&E** failed to remove a  
18 decaying tree, which fell on a transmission line and ignited the blaze.

#### 19           9.       **The 2004 Freds Fire**

20           35. The Freds Fire started in October 2004 near Kyburz, El Dorado County,  
21 California. A lawsuit filed by the United States Government claimed that employees of **PG&E's**  
22 contractor lost control of a large tree they were cutting down. It fell onto a **PG&E** power line  
23 and caused a fire that burned over 7,500 acres. **PG&E** and its contractors paid \$29.5 million to  
24 settle the lawsuits over the Freds Fire and the Sims Fire.

#### 25           10.      **The 2004 Power Fire**

26           36. In October 2004, the Power Fire burned approximately 17,000 acres on the  
27 Eldorado National Forest and on private timberlands. A federal lawsuit alleged that the Power  
28 Fire was ignited by a lit cigarette that was dropped by a **PG&E** tree trimming contractor. **PG&E**  
and its contractor paid the federal government \$45 million to settle the lawsuit.

<sup>7</sup> <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/publishedDocs/published/Report/40886.PDF> (last accessed February 12,  
2018).



1                   **11. The 2005 San Francisco Electrical Explosion**

2           37. In August 2005, a **PG&E** electrical transformer exploded in the San Francisco  
3 financial district at Kearny and Post Streets, severely burning a woman who had been walking  
4 by. A lawsuit by the injured woman settled for an undisclosed sum.

5                   **12. The 2008 Rancho Cordova Explosion**

6           38. In December 2008, a gas leak from a **PG&E** pipe caused an explosion in Rancho  
7 Cordova, California. This explosion left one person dead, injured several others, and caused  
8 over \$260,000 in property damage.

9           39. A National Transportation Safety Board (“NTSB”) investigation revealed that the  
10 leak was caused by incorrect repairs performed by **PG&E** in 2006, at which time **PG&E**  
11 installed a piece of pipe to patch up an earlier leak. The investigative report for the incident  
12 concluded that the walls of the new pipe were too thin, allowing gas to leak from the pipe, and  
13 that **PG&E** failed to timely send properly trained personnel to check out the leak, even though  
14 **PG&E** had been told several months earlier that its emergency plans fell below required  
15 standards. Specifically, the report noted the following:

16                               Contributing to the accident was the 2-hour 47-minute delay in the arrival  
17                               at the job site of a Pacific Gas and Electric Company crew that was  
18                               properly trained and equipped to identify and classify outdoor leaks and to  
                                  begin response activities to ensure the safety of the residents and public.<sup>8</sup>

19           40. In November 2010, the CPUC filed administrative charges against **PG&E** in  
20 connection with the Rancho Cordova explosion, alleging that **PG&E** was at fault for the blast  
21 and that **PG&E** should have discovered the improper repair job that caused the explosion, but  
22 failed to timely do so. As a result, the CPUC required **PG&E** to pay a \$38 million fine.

23                   **13. The 2008 Whiskey Fire**

24           41. The June 2008 Whiskey Fire burned more than 5,000 acres of land in the  
25 Mendocino National Forest. The fire started when a gray pine tree that did not have the required  
26

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>8</sup> [http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/published/Final\\_decision/146914-03.htm](http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/published/Final_decision/146914-03.htm) (last accessed February 12,  
2018).

clearance from a **PG&E** transmission line came into contact with the line. **PG&E** and its contractors agreed to pay \$5.5 million to settle a federal lawsuit.

**14. The 2009 San Francisco Electrical Explosion**

42. In June 2009, a **PG&E** underground electrical vault exploded in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood, sending 30-foot flames and smoke into the air for two hours. This explosion left thousands of people without power.

**15. The 2010 San Bruno Explosion**

43. On September 9, 2010, **PG&E's** continued disregard of public safety caused the death of eight people, injured 58 people, and destroyed an entire neighborhood in San Bruno, California when one of its gas pipelines exploded and burst into flames. Subsequent to the explosion, the NTSB issued a report that blamed the disaster on **PG&E's** poor management of its pipeline. In January 2011, federal investigators reported that the probable cause of the accident was: (i) **PG&E's** inadequate quality assurance and quality control during its Line 132 pipeline relocation project, which allowed the installation of a substandard and poorly-welded pipe section; and (ii) **PG&E's** inadequate pipeline integrity management program, which failed to detect and remove the defective pipe section.

44. As a result, **PG&E** was required to pay substantial fines for its massive safety violations. In April 2015, the CPUC slapped **PG&E** with a \$1.6 billion fine for causing the explosion and diverting maintenance funds into stockholder dividends and executive bonuses. Further, in January 2017, a federal judge convicted **PG&E** of six felony charges and ordered it to pay \$3 million in fines for causing the explosion.

45. Due to **PG&E's** corporate culture which repeatedly ignored public safety, the CPUC launched an investigation into the manner by which **PG&E** officers, directors, and/or managing agents establish safety policies and practices to prevent catastrophic events. At the beginning of the investigation, the CPUC President called out **PG&E's** ongoing safety violations:

Despite major public attention, ongoing CPUC investigations (OIs) and rulemakings (OIRs) into **PG&E's** actions and operations, including the

1 investigations we voted on today, federal grand jury, and California Department  
2 of Justice investigation, continued safety lapses at PG&E continue to occur.<sup>9</sup>

3 **16. The 2011 Cupertino Explosion**

4 46. After the San Bruno explosion, in September 2011, **PG&E** caused a gas  
5 explosion that partially engulfed a condominium in Cupertino, California. The explosion was  
6 the result of cracked Aldyl-A plastic pipe.

7 47. Prior to the explosion, the manufacture of Aldyl-A, the NTSB, and the federal  
8 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration had all issued warnings about this type  
9 of plastic pipe that was prone to premature brittleness, cracking, and failure dating back to at  
10 least 2002. Despite these warnings and **PG&E's** knowledge of this risk, **PG&E** did nothing to  
11 prevent the explosion. Although some utilities around the United States had been replacing  
12 Aldyl-A pipes, **PG&E** did not have a replacement program to phase them out and adequately  
13 protect the public.

14 **17. The 2014 Carmel Explosion**

15 48. In March 2014, a home in Carmel, California was destroyed due to a gas  
16 explosion caused by **PG&E**. Prior to the explosion, **PG&E** was attempting to replace a gas  
17 distribution line, but **PG&E's** legally inadequate records did not show that the steel pipe had a  
18 plastic insert. When crews dug into the steel pipe to perform the replacement, the unknown  
19 plastic insert was pierced, allowing gas to leak through the pipe and into the residence.

20 49. The CPUC once again required **PG&E** to pay a massive fine because of their  
21 wrongdoing. In August 2016, the CPUC imposed a \$25.6 million fine on **PG&E**. With a \$10.85  
22 million citation previously paid by **PG&E** in 2015 for the explosion, **PG&E** was require to pay a  
23 total of over \$36 million in penalties for its shoddy recordkeeping and disregard of public safety.

24 **18. The 2015 San Francisco Transformer Explosion**

25  
26  
27 <sup>9</sup> [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUC\\_Public\\_Website/Content/About\\_Us/  
28 Organization/Commissioners/Michael\\_J\\_Picker/PresidentPickerCommentsonPGESafetyCultureandEnfor  
cementTheory.pdf](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUC_Public_Website/Content/About_Us/Organization/Commissioners/Michael_J_Picker/PresidentPickerCommentsonPGESafetyCultureandEnforcementTheory.pdf) (last accessed February 12, 2018).

1           50. In September 2015, a **PG&E** underground transformer exploded in San  
2 Francisco's Bernal Heights neighborhood. This explosion injured two people, one of them  
3 critically.

4                   **19. The 2015 Butte Fire**

5           51. Tragedy struck yet again in September 2015, when **PG&E's** inadequate and  
6 ineffective vegetation management programs resulted in the Butte Fire in the Sierra foothills.  
7 The Butte Fire burned for 22 days across Amador and Calaveras Counties, killed two people,  
8 destroyed 921 homes and/or structures, and charred over 70,000 acres.

9           52. Similar to the other disasters caused by **PG&E's** wrongdoing, the Butte Fire  
10 could have been prevented by **PG&E**. The Butte Fire was ignited by a gray pine tree that grew  
11 and came into contact with one of **PG&E's** power lines. **PG&E** knew that gray pines posed the  
12 highest risk of catastrophic wildfires, but failed to identify and/or remove the dangerous tree  
13 pursuant to its vegetation management practices. Instead, **PG&E** removed the two trees  
14 surrounding the gray pine at issue, which exposed the gray pine to sunlight and allowed it to  
15 quickly come into contact with **PG&E's** power line. Indeed, in **PG&E's** prepared testimony to  
16 the CPUC's Safety Model Assessment Proceeding, dated May 1, 2015, the company expressly  
17 stated that it was accepting the risk posted by outages in the range of 17 per 1,000 miles, less  
18 than 0.02 percent of trees in contact with its lines, and a small number of wildfires caused by  
19 **PG&E** equipment each year. As such, **PG&E** consciously chose not to mitigate those risks  
20 further, thereby exposing Plaintiffs to the risk of wildfire.

21           53. Subsequent to the Butte Fire, in April 2017, the CPUC fined **PG&E** a total of  
22 \$8.3 million for "failing to maintain its 12kV overhead conductors safely and properly" and  
23 failing to maintain a minimum distance between its power lines and vegetation. Cal Fire also  
24 sent **PG&E** a bill for \$90 million to cover state firefighting costs. Despite these consequences,  
25 **PG&E** did not change, revise, or improve any of its vegetation management practices after the  
26 Butte Fire, paving the way for another massive wildfire.

27 ///

28 ///

1 ///

2 ///

3                   **20.     PG&E's Conduct After the Butte Fires Reflect Its Conscious**  
4                                   **Disregard for Public Safety.**

5           54.     The Butte Fire was not an isolated incident, as shown by **PG&E's** long history of  
6 safety lapses that caused injury or death to many California residents, and destroyed or damaged  
7 their property.

8           55.     The North Bay Fires started approximately two years after the Butte Fire, where a  
9 44-foot tall, weak and spindly gray pine tree that should have been removed by **PG&E** struck a  
10 12,000-volt overhead power line that was owned and operated by **PG&E**. The resulting fire  
11 burned for 22 days, claimed the lives of two people, burned over 70,000 acres, and destroyed 921  
12 homes and/or structures. The fire also left tens of thousands of dead or dying trees and the risk  
13 of water pollution and erosion in its wake. Thousands of people were forced to evacuate their  
14 homes, and thousands were damaged in their person and property.

15           56.     **PG&E's** actions leading up to the Butte Fire illustrate its conscious disregard of  
16 public safety, as follows:

- 17                 • *First, **PG&E chose** to not ensure that properly qualified and trained*  
18                         *inspectors were being used by its contractors to identify hazard trees.*
- 19                 • *Second, **PG&E chose** not to verify that its quality assurance audits were*  
20                         *properly conducted.*
- 21                 • *Third, **PG&E directed** its inspection contractor to hire inspectors that they*  
22                         *knew did not meet the minimum qualifications required by **PG&E's** own*  
23                         *specifications.*
- 24                 • *Fourth, **PG&E chose** not to train inspectors on **PG&E's** hazardous tree*  
25                         *rating system ("HTRS").*
- 26                 • *Fifth, **PG&E chose** not to verify that its contractor trained inspectors on the*  
27                         *HTRS.*
- 28                 • *Sixth, **PG&E chose** not to require inspectors to use the HTRS.*

- *Seventh, PG&E knew* that wildfires caused by contact between vegetation and its power lines posed the highest degree of risk to the public.
- *Eighth, PG&E knew* that its vegetation management program failed to identify over 500,000 trees annually that were closer than the required distance away from its power lines.
- *Ninth, PG&E knew* that its inspectors failed every year to identify tens of thousands of “facility protect trees” or “hazard trees” that were dead, diseased, and/or dying, or that otherwise posed a risk of contacting a power line.
- *Finally, PG&E did nothing* to remove those trees, one of which was the 44-foot tall, weak, and spindly gray pine tree that started the Butte Fire.

57. In April 2017, the CPUC fined **PG&E** a total of \$8.3 million because of the Butte Fire for “failing to maintain its 12kV overhead conductors safely and properly” and failing to maintain a minimum distance between its power lines and vegetation. Cal Fire also sent **PG&E** a bill for \$90 million to cover state firefighting costs.

58. After the Butte Fire, **PG&E** did not change, revise, or improve any of its vegetation management practices, and its managers, executives, and directors astoundingly and repeatedly testified at their depositions that none of **PG&E’s** programs had failed to prevent the Butte Fire, and that none of **PG&E’s** employees had done anything at all to contribute to the cause of the Butte Fire. This blind arrogance paved the way for the future disasters that came to pass with the ignition of the North Bay Fires in October 2017.

#### **C. THE NORTH BAY FIRES BROUGHT DEATH AND DESTRUCTION TO NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

59. On Sunday, October 8, 2017, tragedy struck communities across Northern California when a series of fires began to spark and spread. These deadly fires quickly spread through neighborhoods and destroyed everything in their path, including residences, vegetation, structures, and businesses.



1           60.     The North Bay Fires are collectively the most destructive fires in California's  
2 history. In just a few weeks, the fires caused the deaths of at least 43 people, hospitalized over  
3 185 individuals, displaced about 100,000 people who were forced to leave their homes and  
4 search for safety, burned over 245,000 acres, and damaged or destroyed an estimated 14,700  
5 homes, 3,600 vehicles, and 728 businesses.

6           61.     **PG&E** caused and/or contributed to causing the North Bay Fires. As the North  
7 Bay Fires started to rage, emergency responders received many calls regarding electrical  
8 problems, transformer explosions, transformer fires, arcing transformers, down power lines,  
9 arcing power lines, and/or flames in trees.<sup>10</sup> Witnesses observed, reported and described  
10 downed power lines, exploding transformers, improper fuses, improper connections, improper  
11 clearances, aged and defective poles, and unrepaired poles in the areas in and around the North  
12 Bay Fires.

13           62.     Following the same negligent conduct that led to the Butte Fire, **PG&E** continued  
14 to adhere to the practices that served to increase the risk of wildfires leading up to the North Bay  
15 Fires:

- 16                 • Reclosers in **PG&E's** system were set to avoid outages and not to avoid fires,  
17                 even though fire conditions were known to be extreme.
- 18                 • **PG&E** failed to have a reasonable system in place to make sure its contractors  
19                 were properly performing tree and/or vegetation inspections and removal, pole  
20                 clearance, and pole inspections.
- 21                 • **PG&E** failed to take any steps to look for what it calls "Facility Protect  
22                 Trees" (trees that pose a risk of falling into the line), even though it knew such  
23                 trees were likely to exist after its contractors had performed their work.
- 24                 • **PG&E** failed to properly construct its power lines and thereafter failed to take  
25                 reasonable steps to make sure the poles and lines were sufficiently strong to  
26                 support lines and other equipment that were added by third parties.

27  
28                 <sup>10</sup> <http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/10/10/pge-power-lines-linked-to-wine-country-fires>

- **PG&E** chose to not ensure that its contractors were properly trained in tree inspections and removal.
- **PG&E** chose to not ensure that its contractors hired people who met **PG&E's** minimum qualifications.
- **PG&E** chose to not participate in the training of its contractors.

63. **PG&E** owes the public a non-delegable duty with regard to the operation of its power lines, which includes maintenance, inspection, repair, vegetation management, and/or all other obligations imposed by the Public Utilities Code and the CPUC, specifically including, but not limited to, General Orders Numbers 95 and 165. Even when **PG&E** chooses to hire contractors, its obligations remain non-delegable. **PG&E's** acts and omissions, as described herein, were a cause of the North Bay Fires and/or aggravated the spread of the fires and destruction left in their path.

64. **PG&E** responded to the North Bay Fires by acknowledging that there were problems with its electrical equipment the night the North Bay Fires began. However, **PG&E** blamed its failing electrical equipment on winds combined with “millions of trees weakened by years of drought and recent renewed vegetation growth from winter storms.”<sup>11</sup> However, the fault lies with **PG&E**. Knowing the effects of the drought on vegetation near its power lines, **PG&E** had a duty to inspect and maintain that vegetation to minimize and avoid risk of fire, injury, death and harm to the public, but **PG&E** failed to do so.

65. At all times relevant to this action, **PG&E** had specific knowledge that the greatest risk to the public from its operations was wildfire. **PG&E** knew that wildfire could result in death and injury to members of the public and could result in the destruction of structures and property.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.pgecurrents.com/2017/10/11/pge-statement-on-north-bay-wildfires/> (last accessed February 12, 2018).



1           66.     Despite such knowledge, **PG&E** chose to accept vegetation management that  
2 would result in 17 tree-related outages for each 1,000 miles of lines, despite knowing that such  
3 outages could result in wildfires that would cause injury, death, harm, and property destruction.

4           67.     **PG&E** has acknowledged and at all times relevant to this action knew that it was  
5 not adequately directing resources to its vegetation management program to reduce the risk of  
6 wildfire. **PG&E** cited its limited resources as the reason it chose to put the public in danger,  
7 while at the same time it was receiving approximately \$1,400,000,000 in profits each year.  
8 **PG&E's** decision-making and practices resulted in numerous deaths, injuries, and damage to  
9 structures and property, just as **PG&E** knew it could when it implemented such choices and  
10 practices.

11           **D.     THE IMPACT OF THE NORTH BAY FIRES ON THE WINE INDUSTRY**

12           68.     [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED].

13           69.     [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED].

14           70.     [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED].

15           71.     [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED].

16           72.     [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED].

17           73.     [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED].

18           74.     [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED].

19           75.     [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED].

20           76.     [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED].

21           77.     [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED].

22           78.     [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED].

23           79.     [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED].

24           **E.     THE DEADLY AND DESTRUCTIVE NORTH BAY FIRES**

25           **1.     The Atlas Fire**

26           80.     The devastating Atlas Fire that tore through Napa and Solano Counties was one of  
27 California's most destructive wildfires. The Atlas Fire killed six people, burned approximately  
28

1 51,600 acres, and damaged or destroyed at least 571 homes, wineries, and other structures in  
2 Napa and Solano counties.

3 81. Thousands of residents were displaced and forced to flee in the dark hours before  
4 dawn when the fire grew and spread. Many left on only a moment's notice, fleeing from flames  
5 without their belongings, as their neighborhoods were consumed by smoke and fire.

6 82. Cal Fire reported that the origin of the Atlas Fire was at or near Atlas Peak Road,  
7 south of Lake Berryessa. Cal Fire also reported that the Atlas Fire started at or around 9:52 p.m.  
8 on Sunday, October 8, 2017.<sup>12</sup>

9 83. Contemporaneous calls and reports indicated trees hitting **PG&E** power lines  
10 and/or problems with other electrical equipment at or around the time and place the Atlas Fire  
11 started. For example, in Napa County, a live oak tree and a live oak branch fell and struck two  
12 electricity distribution lines near the City of Napa.

13 84. As described in **PG&E** Electric Safety Incident Report No. 171020-8589, at or  
14 around midnight on October 19, 2017, **PG&E** identified a broken tree limb and broken field-  
15 phase primary insulator on the Pueblo 1104 **PG&E** facility at or near 4011 Atlas Peak Road,  
16 Napa, California. The incident report notes, "An approximately 25 foot tree limb fell from a  
17 White Oak that was rooted approximately 15 feet from the distribution conductors." This  
18 incident occurred the night the Atlas Fire began.<sup>13</sup>

19 85. As described in **PG&E** Electric Safety Incident Report No. 171023-8596, on  
20 October 21, 2017, "**PG&E** identified a 19-inch diameter Oak tree, approximately 45 feet tall,  
21 that broke at the base and took down one phase of the Pueblo 1104 (12 kV) Circuit near 3683  
22 Atlas Peak Road. The butt of the Oak tree was completely burned and located 10 to 15 feet from  
23 the distribution conductors."<sup>14</sup>

26  
27 <sup>12</sup> [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents\\_details\\_info?incident\\_id=1866](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=1866) (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

28 <sup>13</sup> <http://cpuc.ca.gov/pgfireincidentreports> (last accessed February 12, 2018).

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

1           86.     Shortly after the fire, Cal Fire investigators were observed along Atlas Peak Road  
2 looking closely at a line of oak trees whose branches extended through overhead utility lines on  
3 the west side of the road, less than a quarter mile south of a sprawling ranch on the plateau of a  
4 Napa peak. A twisted, fallen wire lay on the ground, surrounded by stake flags. A broken oak  
5 branch precariously dangled overhead among the wires and other branches.<sup>15</sup>

## 6                   2.     The Cascade/LaPorte Fires

7           87.     The Cascade and LaPorte Fires forced scores of individuals to evacuate in the  
8 dark hours before dawn as the fires grew and spread. Many left on only a moment's notice,  
9 fleeing from flames without their belongings, as their neighborhoods were consumed by smoke  
10 and fire. Collectively, the Cascade and LaPorte Fires killed approximately four people and  
11 destroyed over 450 structures and homes.

12           88.     The origin of the Cascade Fire was at or near 13916 Cascade Way, Browns  
13 Valley CA 95918. The Cascade Fire started at or around 11:03 p.m. on Sunday, October 8,  
14 2017, and burned approximately 9,989 acres in Yuba County.<sup>16</sup>

15           89.     Witnesses saw and/or reported trees hitting **PG&E** electrical lines and/or  
16 problems with other electrical equipment at or around the same time and place the Cascade Fire  
17 started. For example, in the half hour before the fire began, firefighters responded to at least two  
18 trees falling into power lines and power lines falling across the road. When emergency  
19 responders headed to the Cascade Fire, they warned each other of downed power lines to ensure  
20 firefighter safety.<sup>17</sup>

21           90.     Cal Fire reported that the origin of the LaPorte Fire was at or near 167 Darby  
22 Road, Bangor, California. The LaPorte Fire started at or around 11:03 p.m. on October 8, 2017,

23  
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26           <sup>15</sup> <http://www.sfchronicle.com/news/article/where-the-blazes-began-12294729.php> (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

27           <sup>16</sup> [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents\\_details\\_info?incident\\_id=1871](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=1871) (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

28           <sup>17</sup> <https://www.mercurynews.com/2017/10/17/yuba-countys-cascade-fire-bore-similar-hallmarks-to-wine-country-fires/> (last accessed February 12, 2018).

1 and burned approximately 6,151 acres in Butte County.<sup>18</sup> The Cascade and LaPorte Fires  
2 merged later that week.

3 91. Contemporaneous calls and reports indicated trees hitting **PG&E** electrical lines  
4 and/or problems with other electrical equipment at or around the same time and place the  
5 LaPorte Fire started. **PG&E** Electrical Safety Incident Report No. 171013-8569 shows that at or  
6 around 11:20 p.m. on October 8, 2017, an oak tree limb broke and hit a nearby electrical wire at  
7 or near the area of origin.<sup>19</sup>

### 8 3. The Cherokee Fire

9 92. Cal Fire reported that the origin of the Cherokee Fire was at or near the  
10 intersection of Cherokee Road and Zonalea Lane in Oroville, California. Cal Fire also reported  
11 that the Cherokee Fire started on Sunday, October 8, 2017, at or around 9:45 p.m. The fire  
12 burned approximately 8,417 acres and destroyed 6 structures in Butte County.<sup>20</sup>

13 93. Contemporaneous calls and reports indicated trees hitting **PG&E** electrical lines  
14 and/or problems with other electrical equipment at or around the same time and place the  
15 Cherokee Fire started. **PG&E** Electric Safety Incident Report No. 171010-8557 shows that at or  
16 around 9:45 p.m. on October 8, 2017, an incident caused a broken tree limb and wires down on  
17 the Clark Road 1102 **PG&E** facility at or near 3401 Cherokee Road, Oroville, California. The  
18 tree was rooted approximately 15 feet from **PG&E** distribution conductors at approximately the  
19 same location as the fire origin reported by Cal Fire.<sup>21</sup>

### 20 4. The Honey Fire

21 94. Cal Fire reported that the origin of the Honey Fire was at or near the intersection  
22 of Honey Run Road and Merlin Lane, southwest of Paradise, California. Cal Fire also reported  
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24  
25

26 <sup>18</sup> [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents\\_details\\_info?incident\\_id=1870](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=1870) (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

27 <sup>19</sup> <http://cpuc.ca.gov/pgfireincidentreports> (last accessed February 12, 2018).

28 <sup>20</sup> [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents\\_details\\_info?incident\\_id=1865](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=1865) (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

<sup>21</sup> <http://cpuc.ca.gov/pgfireincidentreports> (last accessed February 12, 2018).

1 that the Honey Fire started on Monday, October 9, 2017, at or around 3:05 p.m. The fire burned  
2 approximately 150 acres in Butte County.<sup>22</sup>

3 95. Contemporaneous calls and reports indicated trees hitting **PG&E** electrical lines  
4 and/or problems with other electrical equipment at or around the same time and place the Honey  
5 Fire started. Witnesses observed downed power lines, exploding transformers, improper fuses,  
6 improper connections, improper clearances, aged and defective poles, unrepaired poles, problems  
7 with other electrical equipment, and/or down trees, tree limbs, and/or other vegetation in the area  
8 in and around the Honey Fire.

9  
10 **5. The Lobo Fire**

11 96. Cal Fire reported that the origin of the Lobo Fire was at or near Lone Lobo Trail  
12 near Rough and Ready, California. Cal Fire also reports that the Lobo Fire started on early  
13 Monday, October 9, 2017, at or around 12:01 a.m. The fire burned approximately 821 acres in  
14 Nevada County.<sup>23</sup>

15 97. Contemporaneous calls and reports indicated trees hitting **PG&E** electrical lines  
16 and/or problems with other electrical equipment at or around the same time and place the Lobo  
17 Fire started. **PG&E** Electric Safety Incident Report No. 171012-8565 shows that at or around  
18 11:20 p.m. on October 8, 2017, a ponderosa pine tree fell on the Narrows 2102 **PG&E** Circuit at  
19 or near 11218 Lone Lobo Trail, Nevada City, California. The tree was rooted approximately 50  
20 feet from **PG&E** distribution conductors at approximately the same location as the fire origin  
21 reported by Cal Fire.<sup>24</sup>

22 **6. The Maacama or No Name Fire**  
23  
24  
25

26 <sup>22</sup> [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents\\_details\\_info?incident\\_id=1880](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=1880) (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

27 <sup>23</sup> [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents\\_details\\_info?incident\\_id=1877](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=1877) (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

28 <sup>24</sup> <http://cpuc.ca.gov/pgfireincidentreports> (last accessed February 12, 2018).

1           98.     The “Maacama” or “No Name” Fire was first reported at approximately 10:01  
2 p.m. on Sunday, October 8, 2017, and originated near Maacama Lane and Chalk Hill Road in  
3 Healdsburg just east of Maacama Creek.<sup>25</sup>

4           99.     The Maacama Fire forced two families to flee their homes shortly before they  
5 were destroyed by the fire, and burned approximately 50 acres, including sections of a vineyard.

6                       **7.     The McCourtney Fire**

7           100.    Cal Fire reported that the origin of the McCourtney Fire was at or near the  
8 intersection of McCourtney Road and Highway 20 in Grass Valley, California. Cal Fire also  
9 reported that the McCourtney Fire started on early Monday, October 9, 2017, at or around 12:00  
10 a.m. The fire burned approximately 76 acres in Nevada County and destroyed 13 structures.<sup>26</sup>

11           101.    Contemporaneous calls and reports indicated trees hitting **PG&E** electrical lines  
12 and/or problems with other electrical equipment at or around the same time and place the  
13 McCourtney Fire started. **PG&E** Electric Safety Incident Report No. 171011-8563 shows that at  
14 or around 11:00 p.m. on October 8, 2017, a broken ponderosa pine tree and wire were down on  
15 the Grass Valley 1103 **PG&E** Circuit near 11253 Orion Way, Grass Valley, California. The tree  
16 was rooted approximately 6 to 8 feet from **PG&E** distribution conductors and took down 3  
17 primary conductors at approximately the same location as the fire origin reported by Cal Fire.<sup>27</sup>

18                       **8.     The Nuns Fire**

19           102.    The Nuns Fire forced scores of individuals to evacuate in the dark hours before  
20 dawn as the fire grew and spread. Many left on only a moment’s notice, fleeing from flames  
21 without their belongings, as their neighborhoods were consumed by smoke and fire. The Nuns  
22 Fire merged with the Adobe, Norrbom, Oakmont, Partrick, and Pressley Fires (collectively, the  
23  
24  
25

26                       <sup>25</sup> Cal Fire did not give the “Maacama Fire” a name. It is also known to local residents as the “No  
27 Name Fire” due to its proximity to No Name Road.

28                       <sup>26</sup> [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents\\_details\\_info?incident\\_id=1872](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=1872) (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

<sup>27</sup> <http://cpuc.ca.gov/pgefireincidentreports> (last accessed February 12, 2018).



1 “Nuns Fire”). These fires claimed two lives and destroyed approximately 1527 structures and  
2 homes.<sup>28</sup>

3 103. Cal Fire reported that the origin of the Nuns Fire was at or near Highway 12 north  
4 of Glen Ellen, California. Cal Fire also reported that the Nuns Fire started on Sunday, October 8,  
5 2017, at or around 10:00 p.m. The fire burned approximately 56,556 acres in Napa and Sonoma  
6 Counties.<sup>29</sup>

7 104. Cal Fire also reported that the origin of the Partrick Fire, the first fire to merge  
8 with the Nuns Fire, was off Partrick Road west of Napa, California. The Partrick Fire started on  
9 Sunday, October 8, 2017, at or around 11:48 p.m. and burned in Napa County.<sup>30</sup>

10 105. Contemporaneous calls and reports indicated trees hitting **PG&E** electrical lines  
11 and/or problems with other electrical equipment at or around the same time and place the Nuns  
12 Fire started. At least ten of the calls reported electrical problems, transformer explosions,  
13 transformer fires, arcing transformers, down power lines, arcing power lines, and/or flames in  
14 trees. Further, several calls reported problems with electrical equipment in the vicinity of the  
15 Nuns Fire, including a call at approximately 9:43 p.m. reporting trees and wires down and a call  
16 at approximately 10:40 p.m. reporting a blown transformer.<sup>31</sup>

17 106. **PG&E** Electric Safety Incident Report No. 171010-8558 shows that at or around  
18 10:00 p.m. on October 8, 2017, a broken eucalyptus tree and wire was down on the Dunbar 1101  
19 **PG&E** facility at or near 8555 Sonoma Highway near Kenwood, California. The tree was  
20 rooted approximately 50 feet from **PG&E** fallen lines, and took down 3 primary conductors.<sup>32</sup>  
21 Further, **PG&E** Electric Safety Incident Report No. 171016-8576 shows that at or around 1:00  
22 a.m. on October 9, 2017, an alder tree broke at the top and fell on an open wire at or near 1210

23  
24 <sup>28</sup> <http://www.latimes.com/projects/la-me-northern-california-fires-structures> (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

25 <sup>29</sup> [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents\\_details\\_info?incident\\_id=1868](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=1868) (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

26 <sup>30</sup> [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents\\_details\\_info?incident\\_id=1869](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=1869) (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

27 <sup>31</sup> <http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/10/10/pge-power-lines-linked-to-wine-country-fires> (last  
accessed February 12, 2018).

28 <sup>32</sup> <http://cpuc.ca.gov/pgfireincidentreports> (last accessed February 12, 2018).

1 Nuns Canyon Road near Glen Ellen, California. The tree was rooted approximately 30 feet from  
2 **PG&E** overhead secondary distribution conductors.<sup>33</sup> The sites of these **PG&E** incidents are  
3 near or the same location as the two origin locations of Nuns Fire origin reported by Cal Fire.

4 107. At or around the start time of the Nuns Fire, **PG&E's** website for electrical  
5 outages reported two outages at or very near the origin of the Nuns Fire. The first outage was  
6 reported at 10:31 p.m. on October 8, 2017, stating "found a broken power pole in the area." The  
7 second **PG&E** outage at or near the origin of the Nuns Fire was reported at 11:50 p.m. on  
8 October 8, 2017, stating "found a broken power pole in the area."<sup>34</sup>

9 108. For the Partrick Fire, **PG&E** Electric Safety Incident Report No. 171020-8586  
10 shows that on or around October 8, 2017, an oak tree fell and took down one phase of the Pueblo  
11 2103 **PG&E** Circuit at or near 1721 Partrick Road near Napa, California. The tree was rooted  
12 approximately 44 feet from **PG&E** distribution conductors at or near the same location as the  
13 origin of the Partrick Fire reported by Cal Fire.<sup>35</sup> After the fire was extinguished, witnesses  
14 observed Cal Fire investigators looking at downed power lines near the suspected origin point of  
15 the Partrick Fire.<sup>36</sup>

16 109. Further, at or near the start time of the Partrick Fire, **PG&E's** website reported  
17 four separate outages at or very near the origin of the Partrick Fire. All four outages reflected the  
18 same outage cause: "found a broken power pole in the area." The date and time stamps were the  
19 same as well: 1:47 a.m. on October 9, 2017.<sup>37</sup>

## 20 9. The Pocket Fire

21 110. Cal Fire reported that the origin of the Pocket Fire was at or near the intersection  
22 of Pocket Ranch Road and Ridge Ranch Road in Geyserville, California. Cal Fire also reported  
23

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24 <sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*

25 <sup>34</sup> These quotes appeared on [https://m.pge.com/?WT.pgeac=Home\\_Outages#outages](https://m.pge.com/?WT.pgeac=Home_Outages#outages) but are no  
longer available on that site.

26 <sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*

27 <sup>36</sup> <http://www.sfchronicle.com/news/article/where-the-blazes-began-12294729.php> (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

28 <sup>37</sup> These quotes appeared on [https://m.pge.com/?WT.pgeac=Home\\_Outages#outages](https://m.pge.com/?WT.pgeac=Home_Outages#outages) but are no  
longer available on that site.



1 that the Pocket Fire started on early Monday, October 9, 2017, at or around 3:30 a.m. The fire  
2 burned approximately 17,357 acres in Sonoma County.<sup>38</sup>

3 111. Contemporaneous calls and reports indicated trees hitting **PG&E** electrical lines  
4 and/or problems with other electrical equipment at or around the same time and place the Pocket  
5 Fire started. **PG&E** Electric Safety Incident Report No. 171021-8592 shows that at or around  
6 3:30 a.m. on October 9, 2017, there was a broken oak tree limb and wire down on the Cloverdale  
7 1102 **PG&E** facility near the intersection of Ridge Ranch Road and Ridge Oaks Road near  
8 Geyserville, California. The tree was rooted approximately 15 feet from **PG&E's** lines at  
9 approximately the same location as the fire origin reported by Cal Fire.<sup>39</sup>

#### 10 **10. The Point Fire**

11 112. Cal Fire reported that the origin of the Point Fire was at or near the intersection of  
12 Highway 26 and Higdon Road in West Point, California. Cal Fire also reported that the Point  
13 Fire started on early Monday, October 9, 2017, at or around 1:10 a.m. The fire burned  
14 approximately 130 acres in Calaveras County.<sup>40</sup>

15 113. Contemporaneous calls and reports indicated trees hitting **PG&E** electrical lines  
16 and/or problems with other electrical equipment at or around the same time and place the Point  
17 Fire started. **PG&E** Electric Safety Incident Report No. 171009-8554 shows that at or around  
18 10:00 a.m. on October 9, 2017, there was a broken tree limb and wire down on the West Point  
19 1102 **PG&E** facility at or near 22894 Highway 26, West Point, California. The tree was rooted  
20 approximately 50 feet from **PG&E's** distribution conductors at approximately the same location  
21 as the fire origin reported by Cal Fire.<sup>41</sup>

#### 22 **11. The Redwood Valley and Potter Fire**

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26 <sup>38</sup> [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents\\_details\\_info?incident\\_id=1883](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=1883) (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

27 <sup>39</sup> <http://cpuc.ca.gov/pgfireincidentreports> (last accessed February 12, 2018).

28 <sup>40</sup> [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents\\_details\\_info?incident\\_id=1875](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=1875) (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

<sup>41</sup> <http://cpuc.ca.gov/pgfireincidentreports> (last accessed February 12, 2018).

1 114. Cal Fire reported that the origin of the Redwood Valley Fire was north of  
2 Highway 20, west of Mendocino National Forest, and south of Black Bart, California, and that it  
3 started on October 8, 2017, at or around 11:36 p.m. Cal Fire also reported that the origin of the  
4 Potter Fire was near Busch Lane in Pottery Valley. The fires merged into each other and became  
5 commonly referred to as the Redwood Valley Fire or Redwood Fire. Collectively the fires  
6 burned approximately 36,526 acres in Mendocino County, and destroyed or damaged around 588  
7 homes and structures.<sup>42</sup> The fires claimed the lives of 8 individuals, including a 14-year old  
8 boy.<sup>43</sup>

9 115. Contemporaneous calls and reports indicated trees hitting **PG&E** electrical lines  
10 and/or problems with other electrical equipment at or around the same time and place the  
11 Redwood Valley Fire and Potter Fire started. **PG&E** Electric Safety Incident Report No.  
12 171009-8553 shows that at or around 11:35 p.m. on October 8, 2017, there was a wire down and  
13 broken tree near structure 0/8 of the **PG&E** Potter Valley-Mendocino transmission line in Potter  
14 Valley, California. **PG&E** found a broken tree top near the downed conductor. The tree was  
15 rooted approximately 60 feet from **PG&E's** transmission line at approximately the same location  
16 as the fire origin reported by Cal Fire.<sup>44</sup>

17 116. It was difficult for firefighters to access the Redwood Valley Fire and Potter Fire  
18 because of downed power lines and trees. Local county officials reported that within 30 minutes  
19 of the fire dispatch coming in, Cal Fire dispatched every available Cal Fire unit except one, and  
20 local dispatchers fielded hundreds of calls reporting power outages and fires.<sup>45</sup>

## 21 **12. The Sullivan Fire**

22 117. The Sullivan Fire was first reported at approximately 12:17 a.m. on Monday,  
23 October 9, 2017, and originated near 4822 Sullivan Way in Santa Rosa, California.

24  
25 <sup>42</sup> [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents\\_details\\_info?incident\\_id=1874](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=1874) (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

26 <sup>43</sup> <http://krcrtv.com/archive/remembering-the-victims-8-dead-from-redwood-valley-fire> (last  
accessed February 12, 2018).

27 <sup>44</sup> <http://cpuc.ca.gov/pgfireincidentreports> (last accessed February 12, 2018).

28 <sup>45</sup> <http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/article/NP/20171109/NEWS/171109874> (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

1 118. The Sullivan Fire forced families to flee the area in the middle of the night before  
2 it destroyed several homes on Sullivan Way.

3 119. Contemporaneous calls and reports indicated arcing activity or problems with  
4 **PG&E** electrical equipment at the same time and place the Sullivan Fire started. **PG&E** Electric  
5 Safety Incident Report No. 171015-8573 shows that fire damaged two structures “at or near 4818  
6 Sullivan Way” and upon arrival at the scene, **PG&E** “noticed a possible issue with the secondary  
7 conductor.”<sup>46</sup>

### 8 13. The Sulphur Fire

9 120. Hundreds of residents were displaced and forced to evacuate in the dark hours  
10 before dawn as the Sulphur Fire grew and spread. In Clearlake Park, residents had to be picked  
11 up off their docks by boat patrols to escape the raging flames.<sup>47</sup> Other residents with homes on  
12 Gooseneck Point were trapped by the fire and had to flee by rowboat. Many other residents left  
13 on only a moment’s notice, fleeing from flames without their belongings, as their entire  
14 neighborhoods were consumed by smoke and fire.<sup>48</sup>

15 121. Cal Fire reported that the origin of the Sulphur Fire was off Highway 20 at  
16 Sulphur Bank Road, Clearlake Oaks, California. Cal Fire also reported that the Sulphur Fire  
17 started on Sunday, October 8, 2017, at or around 11:59 p.m. The fire burned approximately  
18 2,207 acres in Lake County<sup>49</sup> and destroyed approximately 162 homes, businesses, and  
19 outbuildings.<sup>50</sup>

20 122. Contemporaneous calls and reports indicated trees hitting **PG&E** electrical lines  
21 and/or problems with other electrical equipment at or around the same time and place the  
22 Redwood Valley Fire started. **PG&E** Electric Safety Incident Report No. 171011-8562 shows

24 <sup>46</sup> <http://cpuc.ca.gov/pgefireincidentreports> (last accessed March 9, 2018).

25 <sup>47</sup> <http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-northern-california-fires-live-clearlake-park-neighborhood-hit-hard-by-1508100783-htmlstory.html> (last accessed February 12, 2018).

26 <sup>48</sup> <http://abc7news.com/exclusive-sulphur-fire-victims-tell-harrowing-tale-of-driving-through-flames/2553638> (last accessed February 12, 2018).

27 <sup>49</sup> [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents\\_details\\_info?incident\\_id=1876](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=1876) (last accessed  
28 February 12, 2018).

<sup>50</sup> <https://yubanet.com/Fires/sulphur> (last accessed February 12, 2018).

1 that at or around 11:55 p.m. on October 8, 2017, there were two broken poles on the Redbud  
2 1102 **PG&E** Circuit near the intersection of Pomo Road and Sulphur Bank Road near Clearlake,  
3 California. The top section of Fuse Cutout Pole 1447 had broken and fallen to the ground. In  
4 addition, a pole one span to the west was burned and fell to the ground.<sup>51</sup> The site of this **PG&E**  
5 incident is approximately the same location as the fire origin reported by Cal Fire, and that at  
6 least one of these poles was rotten and riddled with woodpecker holes.

#### 7 **14. The Tubbs Fire**

8 123. The Tubbs Fire was the most destructive of the North Bay Fires. The fire  
9 destroyed approximately five percent of Santa Rosa's housing stock, burned over 36,807 acres  
10 across Sonoma and Napa Counties, and killed at least 22 individuals.

11 124. Cal Fire reported that the origin of the Tubbs Fire was at or near the intersection  
12 of Highway 128 and Bennett Lane, Calistoga, California. Cal Fire also reported that the Tubbs  
13 Fire started on Sunday, October 8, 2017, at or around 9:45 p.m.<sup>52</sup>

14 125. Contemporaneous calls and reports indicated trees hitting **PG&E** electrical lines  
15 and/or problems with other electrical equipment at or around the same time and place the Tubbs  
16 Fire started. At least ten of the calls reported electrical problems, transformer explosions,  
17 transformer fires, arcing transformers, down power lines, arcing power lines, and/or flames in  
18 trees. Further, several calls reported problems with electrical equipment in the vicinity of the  
19 Tubbs Fire, including a call at approximately 9:24 p.m. reporting a **PG&E** transformer  
20 explosion, a call at approximately 9:58 p.m. reporting down power lines, a call at approximately  
21 10:14 p.m. reporting flames in trees, and a call at approximately 10:34 p.m. reporting falling  
22 power line wires.<sup>53</sup>

23 126. At or around the start time of the Tubbs Fire, **PG&E's** website for electrical  
24 outages reported two outages right next to each other at or very near the origin of the Tubbs Fire.

26 <sup>51</sup> <http://cpuc.ca.gov/pgefireincidentreports> (last accessed February 12, 2018).

27 <sup>52</sup> [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents\\_details\\_info?incident\\_id=1867](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=1867) (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

28 <sup>53</sup> <http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/10/10/pge-power-lines-linked-to-wine-country-fires> (last  
accessed February 12, 2018).

1 The causes of the **PG&E** outages read: “found damaged equipment on a power pole,” and “fire  
2 in the area.” The start time of both outages was exactly 8:51 p.m. on October 8, 2017 – near the  
3 the reported start time of the Tubbs Fire.<sup>54</sup>

4 127. There were multiple power lines, power poles, and associated equipment in and  
5 around the reported area of Tubbs origin. After containment of the Tubbs Fire, there was caution  
6 tape around the **PG&E** power poles located at or near Highway 128 and Bennett Lane, where the  
7 outage reports originated. There were several trees dangerously close to power poles and  
8 electrical wires coming off the poles in the area of the Tubbs origin. There was also electric  
9 equipment on the ground that appeared to have come off the poles in the area of the Tubbs  
10 origin.

#### 11 **15. The 37 Fire**

12 128. Cal Fire reported that the origin of the “37 Fire” was at or near the intersection of  
13 Highway 37 and Lakeville Highway near Sonoma, California. Cal Fire also reported that the 37  
14 Fire started on October 9, 2017, at or around 2:00 p.m., and burned approximately 1,660 acres in  
15 Sonoma County.<sup>55</sup>

16 129. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** are informed that witnesses observed downed  
17 power lines, exploding transformers, improper fuses, improper connections, improper clearances,  
18 aged and defective poles, unrepaired poles, problems with other electrical equipment, and/or  
19 down trees, tree limbs, and/or other vegetation in the area in and around the 37 Fire.

#### 20 **F. PG&E’S ACTS AND OMISSIONS CAUSED AND CONTRIBUTED TO** 21 **CAUSING THE NORTH BAY FIRES**

##### 22 **1. The 2013 Liberty Report Found that PG&E’s Distribution System** 23 **Presented “Significant Safety Issues”**

24  
25  
26  
27 <sup>54</sup> This quote appeared on [https://m.pge.com/?WT.pgeac=Home\\_Outages#outages](https://m.pge.com/?WT.pgeac=Home_Outages#outages) but is no  
longer available on that site.

28 <sup>55</sup> [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents\\_details\\_info?incident\\_id=1882](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/incidents/incidents_details_info?incident_id=1882) (last accessed  
February 12, 2018).

130. On May 6, 2013, a report was sent to the Safety and Enforcement Division of the CPUC from the Liberty Consulting Group who had been retained to conduct an independent review of capital and operations and maintenance expenditures proposed by **PG&E** (hereinafter the “2013 Liberty Report”).<sup>56</sup> The 2013 Liberty Report concluded that: “several aspects of the **PG&E** distribution system present significant safety issues.” It also found: (a) “addressing risks associated with electrical distribution components has been overshadowed by electric transmission and gas facilities;” (b) “addressing aging infrastructure and adding SCADA to the system comprise the major focuses of safety initiatives for the distribution system;” and (c) “current employee/contractor serious injury and fatality levels require significantly greater mitigation.”

2. **The 2013 Liberty Report Found that PG&E’s Wires Were Highly Susceptible to Failure Due to Age**

131. One of the first key findings of the 2013 Liberty Report was that **PG&E** had a “large amount of small size obsolete conductor remaining on **PG&E**’s system.” **PG&E** has 113,000 miles of conductors, and according to the report, over 60 percent of those conductors are highly susceptible to failure. The conductors are very small, and generally more susceptible to breaking than standard size conductors. As a conductor ages, it becomes even more susceptible to breaking. Weather conditions, such as winds and lightning strikes, will also wear a small conductor more than larger ones. For these reasons, “[t]his conductor was once popular, but is now recognized as obsolete, due to its small size.”

132. **PG&E**’s failure to replace these undersized and obsolete conductors was a proximate cause of the North Bay Fires and the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** and **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS**’ harm and damages arising therefrom.

3. **PG&E Failed to Inspect, Maintain, Repair, and/or Replace Its Equipment**

<sup>56</sup> <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/publisheddocs/efile/g000/m065/k394/65394210.pdf> (last accessed February 12, 2018).



133. **PG&E** failed to perform the necessary inspections, maintenance, repair, and/or replacement of its electrical equipment.

134. A 2015 audit of **PG&E's** Sonoma Division revealed that there were over 3,500 unfilled **PG&E** repair and maintenance requests in the area of the Tubbs Fire.<sup>57</sup> The volume of unfilled repair and maintenance requests reflects **PG&E's** reckless and conscious disregard for public safety in the North Bay Fire zones.

135. In a December 31, 2015, letter to **PG&E** regarding the audit, Fayi Daye, a supervising electric safety regulator with the CPUC, outlined the violations found in the review of records between 2010 and 2015 and a spot check of **PG&E** electrical distribution equipment. She stated the following:

**PG&E's** records indicated that from August 2010 to September 21, 2015, a total of 3,527 work orders were completed past their scheduled date of corrective action per **PG&E's** Electric Notification Prioritization Standards. Late work orders included overhead and underground facilities.<sup>58</sup>

136. The letter concluded that these delays violated CPUC General Order No. 128, Rule 17.1, which sets forth the CPUC's design, construction, and maintenance rules for electrical systems.

137. The audit also reviewed **PG&E's** maps for its electrical distribution lines and found that over 50 pieces of overhead equipment - including pole mounted transformers and power lines has not been inspected every year as required by law. This was a violation of CPUC General Order No. 165, § 111-B, which sets forth standards for inspections.<sup>59</sup>

138. According to State Senator Jerry Hill, these findings are especially troubling because "they are getting the money for these, they are getting the funds to do the work in a timely manner."<sup>60</sup> Yet, **PG&E** takes the money but fails to correct the problems.

<sup>57</sup> [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUC\\_Public\\_Website/Content/Safety/Electric\\_Safety\\_and\\_Reliability/Reports\\_and\\_Audits/Electric\\_Facilities/EA2015-018.pdf](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUC_Public_Website/Content/Safety/Electric_Safety_and_Reliability/Reports_and_Audits/Electric_Facilities/EA2015-018.pdf) (last accessed February 12, 2018).

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/State-Audit-Shows-PGE-Had-Repair-Job-Backlog-in-Sonoma-Santa-Rosa-451996923.html> (last accessed February 12, 2018).

139. Further, according to records maintained by Cal Fire, approximately 135 fires in Sonoma and Napa Counties were caused by electrical equipment from 2011 through 2015.<sup>61</sup> In 2015, the last year of reported data, electrical power problems sparked the burning of 149,241 acres across California – more than twice the amount from any other cause.<sup>62</sup>

140. Since prior to 1996, **PG&E** has known or should have known that its choice of chemical treatments for its poles can also make its equipment unsafe. For example, **PG&E** uses and has used poles treated with pentachlorophenol in liquefied petroleum gas by the Cellon® process. Those poles tend to experience surface decay below ground regardless of the type of wood used for the poles. As a result, digging inspections are required for poles treated by these processes for all wood types. However, **PG&E** has failed to conduct the proper inspections. Further, when **PG&E** has been advised of necessary repairs to such poles, failed to repair the poles in a timely manner.

141. According to the 2017 CPUC Order Instituting Investigation into the Creation of a Shared Database or Statewide Census of Utility Poles and Conduit:

Poorly maintained poles and attachments have caused substantial property damage and repeated loss of life in this State. For example, inadequate clearance between communication and power lines, perhaps in conjunction with a broken cable lashing wire, caused the Southern California Guejito Fire of 2007 which (together with the Witch Fire) burned 197,990 acres and caused two deaths. Three more deaths occurred in 2011 when an electrical conductor separated from a pole in high winds, causing a live wire to fall to the ground. At least five more people lost their lives in pole-related failures in 2012 and 2015.

Unauthorized pole attachments are particularly problematic. A pole overloaded with unauthorized equipment collapsed during windy conditions and started the Malibu Canyon Fire of 2007, destroying and damaging luxury homes and burning over 4500 acres. Windstorms in 2011 knocked down a large number of poles in Southern California, many of which were later found to be weakened by termites, dry rot, and fungal decay.

<sup>61</sup> [http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire\\_protection/fire\\_protection\\_fire\\_info\\_redbooks](http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_protection/fire_protection_fire_info_redbooks) (last accessed February 12, 2018).

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-utility-wildfires-20171017-story.html> (last accessed February 12, 2018).

1 Communication and other wires are not infrequently found hanging onto roads or  
2 yards. Poles with excessive and/or unauthorized attachments can put utility  
3 workers at risk. Facilities deployed in the field may differ from what appears on  
paper or in a utility's database.<sup>63</sup>

4 142. In the June 29, 2017 CPUC press release for the investigation, CPUC President  
5 Michael Picker stated, "Plain old wooden poles, along with their cousins, the underground  
6 conduits, are work horses, carrying most of our power and telecommunications. They sometimes  
7 get crowded and fail, causing outages and fires because of all the equipment crammed onto  
8 them." Further, "Not knowing where all the poles are and who owns them, how loaded they are,  
9 how safe they are, and whether they can handle any additional infrastructure, is problematic to  
10 both the utilities and to the CPUC. Creating a database of utility poles could help owners track  
11 attachments on their poles and manage necessary maintenance and rearrangements, and can help  
12 the CPUC in our oversight role."<sup>64</sup>

13 143. **PG&E's** failure to conduct proper and regular inspections of its wood utility  
14 poles and failure to replace them or make necessary repairs contributed to causing the North Bay  
15 Fires.

16 **4. PG&E Failed to Ensure Its Infrastructure Could Withstand**  
17 **Foreseeable Weather Conditions as Required by Law**

18 144. Despite **PG&E's** public protestations to the contrary, Northern California did not  
19 experience uncommon weather patterns the night the North Bay Fires began. Readings at  
20 weather stations in the areas impacted by the North Bay Fires show that winds were at  
21 foreseeable levels when **PG&E's** electrical equipment began to fail. For example, on October 8,  
22 2017, a weather station in Santa Rosa in the vicinity of the Tubbs Fire recorded wind gusts of  
23 about 30 miles per hour at or around 9:29 p.m. About an hour later, the same station recorded  
24  
25

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>63</sup> <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M190/K872/190872933.pdf> (last  
accessed February 12, 2018).

28 <sup>64</sup> <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M191/K560/191560905.pdf> (last  
accessed February 12, 2018).

1 wind gusts of 41 miles per hour. These wind speeds were surpassed in other recent storms in the  
2 area on a number of occasions.

3 145. According to **PG&E's** 2014 Annual Electric Distribution Reliability Report, sent  
4 to the CPUC on February 27, 2015, weather conditions have accounted for many of the top ten  
5 **PG&E** electrical outages each year since at least 2004, putting the utility on notice that these  
6 weather conditions occur and that they can cause electrical problems. For example, four of the  
7 "ten largest 2004 outage events" for **PG&E** occurred in the Santa Rosa and Sonoma areas where  
8 winds were documented in the 35 to 65 mph range, much higher levels than those of October 8,  
9 2017.<sup>65</sup>

10 146. **PG&E's** largest outage in 2009 was caused by a strong early season storm that  
11 affected the entire service area with many stations reporting wind gusts over 50 mph. National  
12 Weather Service records indicate this storm was the strongest October rain and wind event since  
13 1962. Therefore, **PG&E** had notice of the type of winds that occurred on October 8, 2017, the  
14 night the North Bay Fires began.

15 147. **PG&E's** wood utility poles in the areas where the North Bay Fires began did not  
16 meet the wind load and safety factors required by General Order 95, Rule 48, under which wood  
17 utility poles must be replaced if they are not strong enough to withstand wind speeds of 92 mph.  
18 No weather station in the areas affected by the North Bay Fires recorded wind speeds at or above  
19 92 mph on the night of October 8, 2017.

20 148. **PG&E's** failure to replace old and deteriorated wood utility poles that did not  
21 meet the strength and safety requirements of General Order 95, Rule 48, and that could not  
22 withstand wind speeds of less than 92 mph contributed to the cause of the North Bay Fires.

### 23 5. **PG&E's Unsafe Use of Reclosers**

24 149. Another key finding of the 2013 Liberty Report was that on a daily basis and in  
25 36 percent of cases, **PG&E** cannot remotely de-energize a downed line and must send someone  
26

27  
28 <sup>65</sup> [https://www.pge.com/includes/docs/pdfs/myhome/outages/outage/reliability/  
AnnualElectricDistributionReliabilityReport.pdf](https://www.pge.com/includes/docs/pdfs/myhome/outages/outage/reliability/AnnualElectricDistributionReliabilityReport.pdf) (last accessed February 12, 2018).

1 on-site to manually turn off the feed. An energized downed line is a hazard, and, according to  
2 the 2013 Liberty Report, this hazard has “contributed to a number of fatalities and injuries.”

3 150. **PG&E** has a long-standing practice of using reclosers throughout its system to  
4 automatically restart power after interruptions, even though it knows these devices may cause  
5 wildfires. Reclosers are circuit breakers equipped with a mechanism that can automatically  
6 “reclose” the breaker and reenergize a power line after it has been “opened” due to a fault. Many  
7 of **PG&E**’s reclosers are set to reenergize the line up to three times after a fault.

8 151. Reclosers are key tools to prevent power blackouts, but if a fault occurs from  
9 contact between a line and a tree or vegetation, reenergizing the line can ignite fires. This danger  
10 is so significant that other major utilities in California claim that they have reprogrammed their  
11 electrical systems during fire seasons to ensure that reclosers do not automatically restart  
12 electrical currents after a service interruption.

13 152. **PG&E** knew that its reclosers posed a great risk of wildfire but has only taken  
14 slow and incomplete steps to eliminate that risk. The “Power Line Prevention Field Guide”  
15 (“2008 Field Guide”) makes the following prescient statement:

16 The potential exists that power line caused fires will become conflagrations  
17 during the long, hot and dry fire season commonly experienced in California. The  
18 very same weather conditions that contribute to power line faults also lead and  
19 contribute to the rapid spread of wildfire. The most critical of these weather  
factors is high wind, which is commonly accompanied by high temperatures and  
low humidity.

20 High, gusty winds may cause vegetation to sway into power lines, break off limbs  
21 or fall into power lines. High winds may also create vibrations in power lines that  
22 can lead to stress failures or cause loose connections to separate. Arcing usually  
23 accompanies such faults. *Automatic Reclosers re-energizing the line into the  
fault may cause repeated arcing and increase the probability of igniting  
vegetation.* [Emphasis added.]<sup>66</sup>

24  
25  
26  
27 <sup>66</sup> 2008 Field Guide, p. 1-5, [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/fire\\_er/fpp\\_engineering\\_view?guide\\_id=15](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/fire_er/fpp_engineering_view?guide_id=15).  
28 The 2008 Field Guide was developed as a mutual undertaking by Cal Fire, PG&E, Southern California  
Edison, San Diego Gas and Electric, and the other electric utilities of California. PG&E’s name and logo  
is displayed prominently on the cover page.

1 At a Congressional hearing in 2015, **PG&E's** Senior Vice President of Electrical Operations,  
2 Patrick Hogan, stated that **PG&E** had the ability to reprogram its reclosers during fire season to  
3 not restart power. Patrick Hogan admitted that shutting down power means "you take the  
4 reliability hit, but you gain the wildfire benefit."<sup>67</sup>

5 153. Despite its knowledge of the dangers posed by reclosers reenergizing lines during  
6 fire season, **PG&E** only untimely and limited response has been to begin an experimental pilot  
7 program in 2017 to reprogram its reclosers that affected only a limited area of California.

8 154. Before the Butte Fire in 2015, **PG&E** began a process of replacing all reclosers  
9 that can only be programmed or controlled on-site with reclosers that can be remotely  
10 programmed and controlled. However, that process has been so slow and deliberate many of its  
11 reclosers must still be programmed or controlled only at the site where they are installed.

12 155. On its own initiative, **PG&E** did not turn off a number of reclosers on  
13 transmission and distribution systems in the area of the North Bay Fires. Instead, **PG&E** left  
14 those reclosers active and did not turn them off until directed to do so by Cal Fire between  
15 October 12 and 15, 2017.

16 156. **PG&E's** failure to turn off its reclosers during fire season and its failure to ensure  
17 all of its reclosers could be programmed and controlled remotely proximately caused the North  
18 Bay Fires and the injuries, deaths, harm and property destruction arising therefrom.

19 **6. PG&E Knew That Its Down-Guy Design Was Flawed and Could**  
20 **Cause Ground Currents That Create Arcing and Spark Vegetation**

21 157. Electrical arcing is a process by which guy wires or "down-guys," when designed  
22 improperly and/or installed according to improper design, conduct ground current at ground level  
23 during high winds, igniting fires to nearby vegetation. Guy wires are the metal support cables  
24 that are used to tie electrical poles to the ground. **PG&E** utilizes an inverted "V" shape design  
25 without any separation or in-line insulators as an attempt to help its poles withstand high wind.  
26 However, in **PG&E's** sub-transmission design, **PG&E** does not separate the connection at the

27  
28 <sup>67</sup> <http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Power-line-restart-device-implicated-in-past-12324764.php> (last accessed February 12, 2018).



1 pole by 12 inches, utilize any in-line insulator to prevent ground current from flowing, or utilize  
2 a shunt so when ground current exists it does not cause an electrical arc. In addition, if not  
3 properly maintained, the down-guys become loose. In high wind conditions, when the poles  
4 sway and ground currents exist, arcing occurs. With the combination of high winds, swaying  
5 poles, loose connections, two down-guys attached by a common bolt, and ground current,  
6 electrical arcing occurs, igniting local vegetation.

7 158. It is believed that arcing from San Diego Gas & Electric wires was the cause of  
8 the 2007 San Diego “Witch Creek” Fires, in addition to the 2003 Cedar and Paradise Fires.

9 159. The down-guy design utilized by **PG&E** is a violation of CPUC General Order  
10 Number 95. Industry experts have demonstrated to the CPUC and California utilities how the  
11 dangerous design causes arcing and fires for over a decade. They believe this design is  
12 unreasonably dangerous and that the fix is cheap and easy. CPUC General Order Number 95  
13 sets forth two possible solutions: either have a 12-inch separation on a pole; or add an in-line  
14 insulator. An additional solution is adding a shunt from the down-guy anchor to the down-guy  
15 itself. All three inexpensive solutions prevent electrical arcs at ground levels that ignite fires.

16 7. **PG&E’s Reckless Adoption of the VMII Program Where It Paid Its**  
17 **Contractors to Cut Fewer Trees**

18 160. **PG&E’s** Vegetation Management Program performs two types of tree work:  
19 annual routine compliance tree work and reliability tree work.

20 161. Annual routine compliance work focuses on maintaining regulatory distances  
21 between energized conductors and vegetation. “Reliability tree work” focuses on locations  
22 where there has been a history of vegetation-related outage problems based on three historical  
23 indexes: System Average Interruption Frequency Index (“SAIFI”), Customer Experiencing  
24 Multiple Interruption (“CEMI”), and System Average Interruption Duration Index (“SAIDI”).

25 162. In 2006, **PG&E’s** Vegetation Management Program adopted the “Vegetation  
26 Management Incentive Initiative” (“VMII”). The ostensible purpose of VMII was to reduce the  
27 annual routine compliance tree work and share the resulting cost savings with the contractors  
28

1 whose compensation would be reduced by the loss of actual work. The actual purpose of VMII  
2 was to shift costs from annual routine compliance work to fund additional reliability work.

3 163. For example, in 2011, **PG&E** set a goal to reduce routine “units” worked from  
4 1.18 million trees in 2011 to 1 million in 2012 in order to increase the amount of money  
5 available for reliability work by \$20 million. In 2012, **PG&E** set a goal to goal to reduce routine  
6 “units” worked by 25 percent in 2013 in order to increase the amount of money available for  
7 reliability work by \$35 million. In 2013, **PG&E** only performed routine patrol inspections on 75  
8 percent of its distribution circuits, using the cost savings to increase its reliability patrols. In  
9 2014, **PG&E** set a goal to reduce routine units worked by 7.5 percent annually through 2016.

10 164. Between 2006 and 2013, **PG&E** actually reduced the number of routine trees  
11 worked from 1.7 million to 1.25 million in 2013, paid contractors \$85 million, and increased  
12 reliability spending by \$134 million. During that time, customer satisfaction as measured by  
13 SAIFI increased by 40 percent.

14 165. Most of **PG&E**’s annual routine compliance work is performed in rural areas in  
15 California, while most of **PG&E**’s “reliability” work is performed in the more densely populated  
16 urban or semi-urban areas where outages will generate more complaints per square mile than in  
17 the rural counties served by **PG&E**. Although the actual vegetation management work  
18 performed in the annual routine compliance patrols and the reliability patrols is virtually the  
19 same, **PG&E**’s only comprehensible rationale for differentiating the “two types of work” is that  
20 the “reliability” work is directed at reducing statistical measurements of customer dissatisfaction  
21 over outages and that goal can be better accomplished by concentrating on work in urban or  
22 semi-urban areas at the expense of work needed in rural areas.

23 166. Under **PG&E**’s bonus incentive program, reducing the number of customer  
24 complaints over outages leads to an increased likelihood of increases in executive and  
25 management bonuses.

1           167. **PG&E's** reckless implementation and continued application of VMII proximately  
2 caused the North Bay Fires and the injuries, deaths, harm and property destruction arising  
3 therefrom.

4                       **8. PG&E Failed to Fully Employ LiDAR to Identify Hazard Trees**

5           168. LiDAR (an acronym for "Light Detection and Ranging") is a surveying method  
6 that measures distances to a target by illuminating that target with a pulsed laser light and  
7 measures the reflected pulses with a sensor. These light pulses, when combined with other data  
8 recorded by the system, orthoimagery, and hyperspectral data, can generate precise three-  
9 dimensional images and information about the shape of the Earth and objects such as buildings  
10 or trees.

11           169. When used in a vegetation management program for electric utilities, LiDAR  
12 scans and analyses can be used to identify trees that have the potential for contacting conductors,  
13 whether because of proximity to the conductors and/or because the trees are dead, diseased, or  
14 dying. Annual LiDAR scans and analyses of the electric system can also identify changes in the  
15 dead or diseased vegetation by comparing one year's data to the prior year's inventory of dead or  
16 diseased trees. When the analysis is conducted over a subset dataset, it can provide a statistical  
17 understanding in the percent change in vegetation identified as dead or diseased.

18           170. **PG&E's** use of LiDAR is funded by its "Catastrophic Event Memorandum  
19 Account" ("CEMA"). If a catastrophic event is declared a state of emergency by the state or  
20 federal government, then utilities like **PG&E** can record costs caused by the event in this  
21 memorandum account. By recording these costs, the utilities can later ask for recovery of these  
22 costs from the CPUC.

23           171. In 2014, **PG&E** began to use LiDAR to scan and analyze small sections of its  
24 electric transmission and distribution system. In 2015, **PG&E** employed a contractor who  
25 created spatially accurate alignment information for approximately 10 percent of **PG&E**  
26 distribution lines using LiDAR and imagery. The contractor identified 2.2 million "Hazard  
27 Trees" in the LiDAR data having the potential to fail-in or encroach on distribution lines,  
28

1 performed “dead and diseased analysis” on 1.6 million trees, and identified 23,000 trees as  
2 potentially dead or diseased.

3 172. In 2015, for some unfortunate reason **PG&E** scheduled the LiDAR contractor’s  
4 deliverables for October 2015 at the very tail end of California’s fire season. The contractor’s  
5 final product identified the 44 foot-tall gray pine that started the Butte Fire as a “Hazard Tree”  
6 that had the potential to fall into one of **PG&E**’s distribution lines, but unfortunately **PG&E**  
7 received the information over a month after the Butte Fire started.

8 173. In 2016 and 2017, **PG&E** again employed LiDAR technology to scan and  
9 analyze its electric transmission and distribution system, but only employed the technology in  
10 limited sections of that system, and again scheduled the deliverables at the tail end of the  
11 California wildfire season.

12 174. **PG&E**’s failure to fully employ LiDAR technology in the area of the North Bay  
13 Fires and its failure to timely schedule deliverables of LiDAR analyses proximately caused the  
14 North Bay Fires and the injuries, deaths, harm and property destruction arising therefrom.

15 9. **PG&E Failed to Treat the Conditions of Its Aging Electrical Assets as**  
16 **an Enterprise-Level Risk**

17 175. Another recommendation of the 2013 Liberty Report was “the establishment of a  
18 formal asset management program in Electric Operations.” According to the report, “aging  
19 infrastructure is best addressed by having a strategic asset management program in place. These  
20 types of programs, such as the PAS 55 program, force a detailed and thorough condition  
21 assessment survey of the major assets. These types of formal programs also take failure modes  
22 into consideration. Long term sustainable plans can then be prepared to address the asset  
23 conditions. A sustainable asset management will mitigate system safety risks from aging  
24 infrastructure, which constituted a major portion of the safety items in this GRC.”

25 176. The 2013 Liberty Report specifically recommended that “**PG&E** treat aging  
26 infrastructure as an enterprise-level risk.”  
27  
28

177. **PG&E's** failure to treat its aging infrastructure as an enterprise-level risk proximately caused the North Bay Fires and the injuries, deaths, harm and property destruction arising therefrom.

10. **PG&E's "Run to Failure" Approach to Maintenance**

178. **PG&E's** failure to address the "significant safety hazards" identified by the 2013 Liberty Report; replace obsolete and undersized conductors; halt its unsafe use of reclosers; adoption of the VMII program; failure to fully employ LiDAR to identify hazard trees; failure to treat the conditions of its aging infrastructure as an enterprise-level risk; failure to inspect, maintain, repair, and/or replace its aging equipment; failure to conduct an inventory of its electrical assets; and failure to ensure its infrastructure could withstand foreseeable weather conditions as required by law are all indicative of what has been called **PG&E's** "run to failure" approach to its infrastructure.

179. **PG&E** has a well-documented history of implementing this "run to failure" approach with its aging infrastructure, ignoring necessary maintenance and creating hazards to the public. According to a filing by Office of Ratepayer Advocates with the CPUC in May 2013:

However, as we saw in Section V.F.3 above, the Overland Audit explains how **PG&E** systematically underfunded GT&S integrity management and maintenance operations for the years 2008 through 2010. **PG&E** engaged in a 'run to failure' strategy whereby it deferred needed maintenance projects and changed the assessment method for several pipelines from ILI to the less informative ECDA approach – all to increase its profits even further beyond its already generous authorized rate of return, which averaged 11.2% between 1996 and 2010.

Given **PG&E's** excessive profits over the period of the Overland Audit, there is no reason to believe that Overland's example regarding GT&S operations between 2008 and 2010 was unique. The IRP Report supplements the Overland Audit findings with additional examples of **PG&E** management's commitment to profits over safety. Thus, it is evident that while the example of GT&S underfunding between 2008 and 2010 might be extreme, it was not an isolated incident; rather, it represents the culmination of **PG&E** management's long-standing policy to squeeze every nickel it could from **PG&E** gas operations and maintenance, regardless of the long term 'run to failure' impacts. And **PG&E** has offered no evidence to the contrary.<sup>68</sup>

<sup>68</sup> [ftp://ftp2.cpuc.ca.gov/PG&E20150130ResponseToA1312012Ruling/2013/03/](http://ftp2.cpuc.ca.gov/PG&E20150130ResponseToA1312012Ruling/2013/03/)

1 180. **PG&E's** "run to failure" approach to maintenance proximately caused the North  
2 Bay Fires and the injuries, deaths, harm and property destruction arising therefrom.

3 181. **[INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]**.

4 182. **[INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]**.

5 183. **[INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]**.

6 184. **[INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]**.

7 **G. PG&E'S CORPORATE CULTURE IS THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE**  
8 **NORTH BAY FIRES**

9 185. **PG&E** has a virtual monopoly in the provision of gas and electric services to the  
10 general public in almost all counties and cities across Northern and Central California.<sup>69</sup>

11 186. Over the past thirty-plus years, **PG&E** has been subject to numerous fines,  
12 penalties, and/or convictions as a result of its failure to abide by safety rules and regulations,  
13 including the fines, penalties, settlements, and convictions detailed above. Despite these  
14 recurring punishments, **PG&E** continues to display a shocking degree of arrogant complacency,  
15 refuses to modify its behavior, and continues to conduct its business with a conscious disregard  
16 for the safety of the public, including the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS**.

17 187. Rather than spend the money it obtains from customers for infrastructure  
18 maintenance and safety, **PG&E** funnels this funding to boost its own corporate profits and  
19 compensation. This pattern and practice of favoring profits over having a solid and well-  
20 maintained infrastructure that would be safe and dependable for years to come left **PG&E**  
21 vulnerable to an increased risk of a catastrophic event such as the North Bay Fires.

22 188. For example, according to documents released by The Utility Reform Network  
23 ("TURN"), **PG&E** planned to replace a segment of the San Bruno pipeline in 2007 that it  
24 identified as one of the riskiest pipelines in **PG&E's** system. **PG&E** collected \$5 million from  
25 its customers to complete the project by 2009, but instead deferred the project until it was too  
26

27  
28 SB\_GT&S\_0039691.pdf (last accessed February 12, 2018).

<sup>69</sup> A few cities like Palo Alto and Sacramento provide their own gas and electric utility services.



1 late and repurposed the money to other priorities. That same year, **PG&E** spent nearly \$5  
2 million on bonuses for six of its top executives.

3 189. Further, Geisha Williams, PG&E's CEO, is slated to receive at least \$12.23  
4 million in bonuses over the next few years, depending on the future performance of the  
5 company. This is on top of her \$1.085 million annual salary, which rose 3 percent from 2017 to  
6 2018.<sup>70</sup>

7 190. Moreover, **PG&E** has implemented multiple programs that provide monetary  
8 incentives to its employees, agents, and/or contractors to not protect public safety. Prior to the  
9 Butte Fire, **PG&E** chose to provide a monetary incentive through the VMII program to its  
10 contractors to cut fewer trees, even though **PG&E** was required to have an inspection program in  
11 place that removed dangerous trees and reduced the risk of wildfires. Robert Urban, a regional  
12 officer for a **PG&E** contractor, stated that he had a concern that the bonus system incentivized  
13 his employees to not do their job, but **PG&E** chose to keep this program despite knowing this  
14 risk.

15 191. Similarly, prior to the San Bruno explosion, **PG&E** had a program that provided  
16 financial incentives to employees to not report or fix gas leaks and keep repair costs down. This  
17 program resulted in the failure to detect a significant number of gas leaks, many of which were  
18 considered serious leaks. According to Richard Kuprewicz, an independent pipeline safety  
19 expert, **PG&E's** incentive system was "training and rewarding people to do the wrong thing,"  
20 emblematic of "a seriously broken process," and "explains many of the systemic problems in this  
21 operation that contributed to the [San Bruno] tragedy."<sup>71</sup>

22 192. As detailed above, the North Bay Fires are just one example of the many tragedies  
23 that have resulted from **PG&E's** enduring failure to protect the public from the dangers  
24 associated with its operations. PG&E power lines, transformers, conductors, poles, insulators,  
25

26 <sup>70</sup> <https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/PG-E-CEO-could-get-more-than-12-million-in-12714473.php> (last accessed March 6, 2018).

27 <sup>71</sup> <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/PG-E-incentive-system-blamed-for-leak-oversights-2424430.php>  
28

1 and/or other electrical equipment have repeatedly started wildfires due to **PG&E's** ongoing  
2 failure to create, manage, implement, and/or maintain effective vegetation management  
3 programs for the areas near and around its electrical equipment. Further, **PG&E's** aging  
4 infrastructure has caused multiple disasters throughout California.

5 193. As detailed more fully above, **PG&E's** failures to reduce the risk of wildfire are  
6 serious and widespread, and contributed to causing the North Bay Fires. The reclosers in  
7 **PG&E's** system were set to avoid outages and not to avoid fires, even though fire conditions  
8 were known to be extreme. **PG&E** failed to have a reasonable system in place to make sure that  
9 its contractors were properly performing tree and/or vegetation inspections and removal, pole  
10 clearance, and pole inspections. **PG&E** failed to take any steps to look for what it calls Facility  
11 Protect Trees (trees which pose a risk of falling into the line), even though it knew such trees  
12 were likely to exist after its contractors had performed their work. **PG&E** failed to properly  
13 construct its power lines and thereafter failed to take reasonable steps to make sure the poles and  
14 lines were sufficiently strong to support lines and other equipment that were added by third  
15 parties. Finally, despite knowing that wildfires posed the greatest risk to the public from its  
16 electrical operations, **PG&E** chose to not ensure that its contractors were properly trained in tree  
17 inspections and removal, chose to not ensure that its contractors hired people who met **PG&E's**  
18 minimum qualifications, and chose to not participate in the training of its contractors.

19 194. As the numbers of disasters caused by **PG&E** continue to mount, the number of  
20 "feel good" commercials it airs increases exponentially. Those "concerned neighbor"  
21 commercials cannot the true nature of **PG&E's** corporate culture of greed, indifference, dogged  
22 refusal to take responsibility for its actions, and persistent failure to institute obvious measures to  
23 protect the public.

24 **V. CAUSES OF ACTION**

25 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

26 **NEGLIGENCE**

27 **(Against All Defendants)**

28 195. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** incorporate and re-allege each of the  
paragraphs set forth above as though fully set forth herein.

1           196. The North Bay Fires were a direct and legal result of the negligence, carelessness,  
2 recklessness, and/or unlawfulness of **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them. **DEFENDANTS**,  
3 and/or each of them, breached their respective duties owed individually and/or collectively to the  
4 insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** and **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** by,  
5 including but not limited to: (1) failing to comply with the applicable statutory, regulatory,  
6 and/or professional standards of care; (2) failing to timely and properly maintain, manage,  
7 inspect, and/or monitor the subject power lines, electrical equipment, and/or adjacent vegetation;  
8 (3) failing to properly cut, trim, prune, and/or otherwise keep vegetation at a sufficient distance  
9 to avoid foreseeable contact with power lines; (4) failing to trim and/or prune vegetation so as to  
10 avoid creation of a safety hazard within close proximity of the subject power line; (5) failing to  
11 make the overhead lines safe under all the exigencies created by surrounding circumstances and  
12 conditions; (6) failing to conduct adequate, reasonably prompt, proper, effective, and/or frequent  
13 inspections of the electrical transmission lines, wires, and/or associated equipment; (7) failing to  
14 design, construct, monitor, and/or maintain high voltage electrical transmission, and/or  
15 distribution power lines in a manner that avoids the potential to ignite a fire during long, dry  
16 seasons by allowing vegetation to grow in an unsafe manner; (8) failing to install the equipment  
17 necessary and/or to inspect and repair the equipment installed, to prevent electrical transmission  
18 and distribution lines from improperly sagging, operating, and/or making contact with other  
19 metal wires placed on its poles and igniting fires; (9) failing to keep equipment in a safe  
20 condition and/or manage equipment to prevent fire at all times; (10) failing to de-energize power  
21 lines during fire prone conditions; (11) failing to de-energize power lines after the fire's ignition;  
22 and/or (12) failing to properly train and to supervise employees and agents responsible for  
23 maintenance and inspection of the distribution lines and/or vegetation areas nearby these lines.

24           197. As a direct and legal result of **DEFENDANTS'** actions and omissions, the  
25 insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** and **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** have  
26 suffered damage as alleged in Paragraph 9. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** who are obligated  
27 to make payments or have made payments to their insured(s) are equitably subrogated to the  
28 rights of their insured(s), "stand in their shoes," and are entitled to bring this claim for payments

1 made or to be made. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** investigated, adjusted and paid, and may  
2 in the future pay, said damage, injury and loss, consistent with its policies of insurance and its  
3 obligations under law, and said payments were not voluntary. **SUBROGATION**  
4 **PLAINTIFFS'** damages are in a liquidated sum; the amount paid to their insureds.  
5 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS'** insureds have an existing, assignable cause of action against  
6 **DEFENDANTS**, which the insureds could have asserted for their own benefit had they not been  
7 compensated for their losses by **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS**. As such, **SUBROGATION**  
8 **PLAINTIFFS** have suffered damages caused by an act or omission of **DEFENDANTS**, and  
9 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** have equitable and/or legal subrogation rights against  
10 **DEFENDANTS** herein, to the extent of the payments made. Justice requires that the loss be  
11 entirely shifted from **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** to **DEFENDANTS**, whose equitable  
12 position is inferior to that of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS**.

13 198. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

14 199. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

15 200. As a further direct and legal result of **DEFENDANTS'** actions and/or omissions,  
16 and/or each of them, the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** and **SUBROGATION**  
17 **PLAINTIFFS** have suffered a loss of income, loss of earning capacity, loss of profits, increased  
18 expenses due to displacement, and/or other consequential economic losses in an amount  
19 according to proof at trial.

20 201. As a further direct and legal result of **DEFENDANTS'** actions and/or omissions,  
21 and/or each of them, the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** and **SUBROGATION**  
22 **PLAINTIFFS** have suffered damage to real property, including the loss of vegetation, trees, and  
23 structures, the creation of hydrophobic soil conditions, and a loss of use, benefit, goodwill,  
24 diminution in value, and/or enjoyment of such property in an amount according to proof at trial.

25 202. As a further direct and legal result of **DEFENDANTS'** actions and/or omissions,  
26 and/or each of them, the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** and **SUBROGATION**  
27 **PLAINTIFFS** have suffered damage to and/or a loss of personal property, including but not  
28

1 limited to items of peculiar value to the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** and  
2 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** in an amount according to proof at trial.

3 203. As a further direct and legal result of **DEFENDANTS'** actions and/or omissions,  
4 and/or each of them, the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** and **SUBROGATION**  
5 **PLAINTIFFS** have incurred and will continue to incur expenses and other economic damages  
6 related to the damage to their property, including costs relating to storage, clean-up, disposal,  
7 repair, depreciation, and/or replacement of their property, and/or other related consequential  
8 damages in an amount according to proof at trial.

9 204. **PG&E** has a virtual monopoly over the transmission and distribution of electrical  
10 power to the areas affected by the North Bay Fires and has individual contracts with all residents  
11 and businesses in those areas to whom it distributes that electrical power. The communities  
12 affected by the North Bay Fires are all dependent upon the safe transmission and distribution of  
13 that electrical power for continuous residential and commercial usage, and **PG&E** has  
14 contractual, statutory, and public duties to provide that electrical power in a manner that  
15 promotes those individual and public interests.

16 205. The potential harms to the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** and  
17 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** from wildfires such as the North Bay Fires were objectively  
18 foreseeable both in nature and in scope and were subjectively known to **PG&E** from its long and  
19 tragic history of causing such wildfires.

20 206. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

21 207. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

22 208. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

23  
24 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**  
25 **(Against All Defendants)**

26 209. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

27 210. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

28 211. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

1           212. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

2           213. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

3  
4                                   **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**  
5                                   **(Against All Defendants)**

6           214. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

7           215. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

8           216. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

9           217. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

10          218. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

11          219. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

12                                   **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
13                                   **INVERSE CONDEMNATION**  
14                                   **(Against All Defendants)**

15           220. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** incorporate and re-allege each of the  
16 paragraphs set forth above as though fully set forth herein.

17           221. On or around October 8 or 9, 2017, **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS'** insureds  
18 were owners of real property and/or personal property and/or automobiles located within Butte,  
19 Calaveras, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Solano, Sonoma, and/or Yuba Counties in the area  
20 of the North Bay Fires.

21           222. Prior to and on October 8 or 9, 2017, **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them,  
22 installed, owned, operated, used, controlled, and/or maintained power lines and other electrical  
23 equipment for the public delivery of electricity, including power lines in and around the location  
24 of the North Bay Fires.

25           223. On or around October 8 or 9, 2017, as a direct, necessary, and legal result of  
26 **DEFENDANTS'** design, installation, ownership, operation, use, control, management, and/or  
27 maintenance for a public use, the power lines and/or other electrical equipment came in contact  
28 with vegetation and/or broke, failed, fell down, sparked, and/or exploded, causing wildfires that



1 burned thousands of acres, including property owned or occupied by insured(s) of  
2 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS**. The fires damaged and/or destroyed the insured(s) of  
3 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS'** real and/or personal property.

4 224. The above described damage to the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION**  
5 **PLAINTIFFS'** property was legally and substantially caused by the actions of **DEFENDANTS**,  
6 and/or each of them, in their design, installation, ownership, operation, use, control,  
7 management, and/or maintenance of the power lines and other electrical equipment for a public  
8 use. **PG&E** is a privately owned public utility, which enjoys a state-protected monopoly or  
9 quasi-monopoly, derived from its exclusive franchise provided by the State of California and is  
10 more akin to a governmental entity than a purely private entity, and runs its utility affairs like a  
11 governmental entity. **PG&E's** monopoly is guaranteed and safeguarded by the California Public  
12 Utilities Commission, which possesses the power to refuse to issue certificates of public  
13 convenience and necessity to permit potential competition to enter the market. The policy  
14 justifications underlying inverse condemnation liability are that individual property owners  
15 should not have to contribute disproportionately to the risks from public improvements made to  
16 benefit the community as a whole. Under the rules and regulations set forth by the California  
17 Public Utilities Commission, amounts that **DEFENDANTS** must pay in inverse condemnation  
18 can be included in their rates and spread among the entire group of rate payers so long as they  
19 are otherwise acting as a reasonable and prudent manager of their electric distribution systems.

20 225. The insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** and **SUBROGATION**  
21 **PLAINTIFFS** have not received adequate compensation for the damage to and/or destruction of  
22 their property, thus constituting a taking or damaging of the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION**  
23 **PLAINTIFFS'** property by **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them, without just compensation.

24 226. As a direct and legal result of the actions and/or omissions of the  
25 **DEFENDANTS**, the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** suffered damages to their  
26 real and/or personal property and/or automobiles, including loss of use, business interruption,  
27 interference with access, and/or diminution in value and/or marketability, which amounts were  
28 paid by **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** in an amount according to proof at trial.

1           227. As a direct and legal result of the actions and/or omissions of the  
2 **DEFENDANTS, SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** have incurred and will continue to incur  
3 costs, disbursements, and/or expenses, including reasonable attorney, appraisal, engineering,  
4 and/or other expert fees due to the conduct of the **DEFENDANTS** in amounts that cannot yet be  
5 ascertained, but which are recoverable pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 1036.

6  
7                                   **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
8                                   **PUBLIC NUISANCE**  
                                  **(Against All Defendants)**

9           228. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** incorporate and re-allege by this reference each  
10 of the paragraphs set forth as though fully set forth herein.

11           229. The insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** own and/or occupy property  
12 at or near the site of the North Bay Fires which is the subject of this action. At all relevant times  
13 herein, the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** had a right to occupy, enjoy, and/or  
14 use their property without interference by **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them.

15           230. **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them, owed a duty to the public, including the  
16 insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** and **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** herein, to  
17 conduct their business, in particular the maintenance and/or operation of power lines, power  
18 poles, and/or electrical equipment on power poles, and adjacent vegetation in proximity to their  
19 power lines in and around Butte, Calaveras, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Solano, Sonoma,  
20 and/or Yuba Counties in a manner that did not threaten harm or injury to the public welfare from  
21 operation of those power lines.

22           231. **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them, by acting and/or failing to act, as alleged  
23 hereinabove, created a conditions which was harmful to the health of the public, including these  
24 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** and their insured(s), and which interfered with the  
25 comfortable occupancy, use, and/or enjoyment of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS'** insured(s)  
26 property.

1           232.   **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** did not consent, expressly or impliedly, to the  
2 wrongful conduct of **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them, in acting in the manner set forth  
3 above.

4           233.   The hazardous conditions that were created by and/or permitted to exist by  
5 **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them, affected a substantial number of people within the general  
6 public, including the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** herein, and constituted a  
7 public nuisance under Civil Code §§ 3479 and 3480 and Public Resources Code § 4171. Further,  
8 the ensuing uncontrolled wildfire constituted a public nuisance under Public Resources Code §  
9 4170.

10           234.   The damaging effects of **DEFENDANTS'** maintenance of a fire hazard and the  
11 ensuing uncontrolled wildfire are ongoing and affect the public at large. As a result of the fire's  
12 location, temperature, and/or duration, extensive areas of hydrophobic soils developed within the  
13 fire's perimeter. This further caused significant post fire runoff hazards to occur, including  
14 hillside erosion, debris flow hazards, sediment laden flow hazards, and hillside erosion. As a  
15 result, large quantities of ash and sediment will be deposited in perennial and ephemeral  
16 watercourses.

17           235.   As a direct and legal result of the conduct of **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of  
18 them, the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** suffered harm that is different from the  
19 type of harm suffered by the general public. Specifically, the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION**  
20 **PLAINTIFFS** have lost the occupancy, possession, use, and/or enjoyment of their land, real  
21 and/or personal property and/or automobiles, including, but not limited to: (a) a reasonable and  
22 rational fear that the area is still dangerous; (b) a diminution in the fair market value of their  
23 property; (c) an impairment of the salability of their property; (d) soils that have become  
24 hydrophobic; (e) exposure to an array of toxic substances on their land; (f) the presence of  
25 "special waste" on their property that requires special management and disposal; and (g) a  
26 lingering smell of smoke, and/or constant soot, ash, and/or dust in the air. To the extent that  
27 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** insured such losses and made payment for such losses,  
28 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** are entitled to recover such amounts from **DEFENDANTS**.

1           236. As a further direct and legal result of the conduct of **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each  
2 of them, the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** have suffered, and will continue to  
3 suffer, discomfort, anxiety, fear, worries, annoyance, and/or stress attendant to the interference  
4 with **PLAINTIFFS'** occupancy, possession, use and/or enjoyment of their property, as alleged  
5 above. To the extent that **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** insured such losses and made  
6 payment for such losses, **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** are entitled to recover such amounts  
7 from **DEFENDANTS**.

8           237. A reasonable, ordinary person would be reasonably annoyed or disturbed by the  
9 condition created by **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them, and the resulting fire.

10           238. The conduct of **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them, is unreasonable and the  
11 seriousness of the harm to the public, including the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION**  
12 **PLAINTIFFS** herein, outweighs the social utility of **DEFENDANTS'** conduct.

13           239. The individual and/or collective conduct of **DEFENDANTS** set forth above,  
14 and/or each of them, resulting in the North Bay Fires is not an isolated incident, but is ongoing  
15 and/or a repeated course of conduct, and **DEFENDANTS'** prior conduct and/or failures have  
16 resulted in other fires and damage to the public.

17           240. The unreasonable conduct of **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them, is a direct  
18 and legal cause of the harm, injury, and/or damage to the public, including **SUBROGATION**  
19 **PLAINTIFFS** herein. To the extent that **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** insured such losses  
20 and made payment for such losses, **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** are entitled to recover such  
21 amounts from **DEFENDANTS**.

22           241. **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them, have individually and/or collectively,  
23 failed and refused to conduct proper inspections and to properly trim, prune, and/or cut  
24 vegetation in order to ensure the sole delivery of electricity to residents through the operation of  
25 power lines in the affected area, and **DEFENDANTS'** individual and/or collective failure to do  
26 so exposed every member of the public, residing in Butte, Calaveras, Lake, Mendocino, Napa,  
27 Nevada, Solano, Sonoma, and/or Yuba Counties, to a foreseeable danger of personal injury,  
28 death, and/or a loss of or destruction real and personal property.

1           242. The conduct of **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them, set forth above constitutes  
2 a public nuisance within the meaning of Civil Code §§ 3479 and 3480, Public Resources Code  
3 §§ 4104, 4170 and 4171, and Code of Civil Procedure § 731. Under Civil Code § 3493, the  
4 insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** and **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** have  
5 standing to maintain an action for public nuisance because the nuisance is especially injurious to  
6 the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** because, as more specifically described  
7 above, it is injurious and/or offensive to the senses of the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION**  
8 **PLAINTIFFS**, unreasonably interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of their properties,  
9 and/or unlawfully obstructs the free use, in the customary manner, of the insured(s) of  
10 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS**' properties, and have suffered harm, injury, and damages.

11           243. For these reasons, **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** seek a permanent injunction  
12 enjoining **DEFENDANTS**, and each of them, from continued violation of: (a) General Order  
13 No. 95, Rules 31.1-31.5, 35, 38, 43, 43.2, 44.1-44.4, and 48-48.1; (b) General Order No. 165; (c)  
14 Public Resources Code §§ 4292, 4293, and 4435; and (d) Public Utilities Code § 451.  
15 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** also seek an order directing **DEFENDANTS** to abate the  
16 existing and continuing nuisance described above, and to the extent that **SUBROGATION**  
17 **PLAINTIFFS** insured such losses and made payment for such losses, **SUBROGATION**  
18 **PLAINTIFFS** are entitled to recover such amounts from **DEFENDANTS**.

19  
20                                   **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
21                                   **PRIVATE NUISANCE**  
22                                   **(Against All Defendants)**

23           244. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** incorporate and re-allege by this reference each  
24 of the paragraphs set forth as though fully set forth herein.

25           245. **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them, by their acts and/or omissions set forth  
26 above, directly and legally caused an obstruction to the free use of **SUROGATION**  
27 **PLAINTIFFS**' insured(s) property, an invasion the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION**  
28 **PLAINTIFFS**' right to use their property, and/or an interference with the enjoyment of the  
insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS**' property, resulting in the insured(s) of

1 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** suffering unreasonable harm and substantial actual damages  
2 constituting a nuisance pursuant to Civil Code §§ 3479 and 3481.

3 246. As a direct and legal result of the wrongful acts and/or omissions of  
4 **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them, the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS**  
5 suffered, and continue to suffer, the injuries and damages as set forth above, and to the extent  
6 that **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** insured such losses and made payment for such losses,  
7 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** are entitled to recover such amounts from **DEFENDANTS** in  
8 an amount according to proof at trial.

9 247. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

10  
11 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
12 **(Against All Defendants)**

13 248. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

14 249. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

15 250. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

16 251. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

17 252. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

18 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
19 **TRESPASS**  
20 **(Against All Defendants)**

21 253. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** incorporate and re-allege by this reference each  
22 of the paragraphs set forth as though fully set forth herein.

23 254. At all times relevant herein, the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS**  
24 were the owners, tenants, and/or lawful occupants of property damaged by the North Bay Fires.

25 255. **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them, in wrongfully acting and/or failing to act  
26 in the manner set forth above, caused the North Bay Fires to ignite and/or spread out of control,  
27 causing harm, damage, and/or injury to the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS**  
28



1 herein, resulting in a trespass upon the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS'** property  
2 interests.

3 256. The insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** did not grant permission for  
4 **DEFENDANTS** to wrongfully act in a manner so as to cause the North Bay Fires, and thereby  
5 produce fires which spread and wrongfully entered upon their property, resulting in the harm,  
6 injury, and/or damage alleged above.

7 257. As a direct and legal result of the wrongful conduct of **DEFENDANTS**, and/or  
8 each of them, which led to the trespass, the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** have  
9 suffered and will continue to suffer damages. To the extent that **SUBROGATION**  
10 **PLAINTIFFS** insured such losses and made payment for such losses, **SUBROGATION**  
11 **PLAINTIFFS** are entitled to recover such amounts from **DEFENDANTS** in an amount  
12 according to proof at trial.

13 258. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

14 259. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

15 260. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

16 261. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

17 262. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

18  
19 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
20 **PRIVATE ACTION UNDER PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE § 2106**  
21 **(Against All Defendants)**

22 263. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** incorporate and re-allege each of the  
23 paragraphs set forth above as though fully set forth herein.

24 264. Public Utilities Code § 2106 creates a private right of action against “[a]ny public  
25 utility which does, causes to be done, or permits any act, matter, or thing prohibited or declared  
26 unlawful, or which omits to do any act, matter, or thing required to be done, either by the  
27 Constitution, any law of this State, or any order or decision of the commission . . . .”

28 265. As a Public Utility, **DEFENDANTS** at all times herein had a duty to properly  
design, construct, operate, maintain, inspect, and manage its electrical infrastructure as well as

1 trim trees and vegetation in compliance with all relevant provisions of applicable orders,  
2 decisions, directions, rules or statutes, including, but not limited to, those stated in: (a) General  
3 Order No. 95, Rules 31.1-31.5, 35, 38, 43, 43.2, 44.1-44.4, and 48-48.1; (b) General Order No.  
4 165; (c) Code of Civil Procedure § 733; (d) Public Resources Code §§ 4292, 4293, and 4435;  
5 and (e) Public Utilities Code § 451.

6 266. The violation of a legislative enactment or administrative regulation which  
7 defines a minimum standard of conduct is unreasonable per se.

8 267. **DEFENDANTS** violated the above listed requirements, by:

- 9 a. Failing to service, inspect or maintain electrical infrastructure, structures and  
10 vegetation affixed to and in close proximity to high voltage electrical lines;  
11 b. Failing to provide electrical supply systems of suitable design;  
12 c. Failing to construct and to maintain such systems for their intended use of safe  
13 transmission of electricity considering the known condition of the  
14 combination of the dry season and vegetation of the area, resulting in the  
15 property of the insureds of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** being  
16 susceptible to the ignition and spread of fire and the fire hazard and danger of  
17 electricity and electrical transmission and distribution;  
18 d. Failing to properly design, construct, operate, maintain, inspect and manage  
19 its electrical supply systems and the surrounding arid vegetation resulting in  
20 said vegetation igniting and accelerating the spread of the fire;  
21 e. Failing to properly safeguard against the ignition of fire during the course and  
22 scope of employee work on behalf of **DEFENDANTS**; and  
23 f. Failing to comply with the enumerated legislative enactments and  
24 administrative regulations.

25 268. **DEFENDANTS** proximately and substantially caused the destruction, damage,  
26 and injury to the property of insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** by their violations  
27 of applicable orders, decisions, directions, rules or statutes, including, but not limited to, those  
28

1 stated in: (a) General Order No. 95, Rules 31.1-31.5, 35, 38, 43, 43.2, 44.1-44.4, and 48-48.1;  
2 (b) General Order No. 165; (c) Code of Civil Procedure § 733; (d) Public Resources Code §§  
3 4292, 4293, and 4435; and (e) Public Utilities Code § 4511.

4 269. The insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** were and are within the class  
5 of persons for whose protection applicable orders, decisions, directions, rules or statutes were  
6 adopted, including, but not limited to, those stated in: (a) General Order No. 95, Rules 31.1-  
7 31.5, 35, 38, 43, 43.2, 44.1-44.4, and 48-48.1; (b) General Order No. 165; (c) Code of Civil  
8 Procedure § 733; (d) Public Resources Code §§ 4292, 4293, and 4435; and (e) Public Utilities  
9 Code § 451.

10 270. As alleged herein according to proof, **DEFENDANTS** are liable to  
11 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** for all loss, damages and injury caused by and resulting from  
12 **DEFENDANTS'** violation of applicable orders, decisions, directions, rules or statutes were  
13 adopted, including, but not limited to, those stated in: (a) General Order No. 95, Rules 31.1-  
14 31.5, 35, 38, 43, 43.2, 44.1-44.4, and 48-48.1; (b) General Order No. 165; (c) Code of Civil  
15 Procedure § 733; (d) Public Resources Code §§ 4292, 4293, and 4435; and (e) Public Utilities  
16 Code § 451.

17 271. **[INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]**.

18  
19 **TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
20 **VIOLATION OF HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 13007**  
21 **(Against All Defendants)**

22 272. **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** incorporate and re-allege each of the  
23 paragraphs set forth above as though fully set forth herein.

24 273. By engaging in the acts and/or omissions alleged in this Master Complaint,  
25 **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them, negligently, carelessly, recklessly, and/or in violation of  
26 law, set fire to and/or allowed fire to be set to the property of another in violation of Health &  
27 Safety Code § 13007.  
28

1           274. As a direct and legal result of **DEFENDANTS'** violation of Health & Safety  
2 Code § 13007, **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** suffered recoverable damages to property  
3 under Health & Safety Code § 13007.21 for amounts paid to its insured(s).

4           275. As a further direct and legal result of the **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them,  
5 violating Health & Safety Code § 13007, **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** are entitled to  
6 reasonable attorney's fees under Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.9.

7           276. As a direct and legal result of the wrongful acts and/or omissions of  
8 **DEFENDANTS**, and/or each of them, the insured(s) of **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** and  
9 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** suffered, and continue to suffer, the injuries and damages as  
10 set forth above.

11           277. **[INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]**.

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1 **VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 WHEREFORE, **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** pray for judgment against  
3 **DEFENDANTS** and DOES 1 through 100, and each of them as follows:

- 4 1. For monetary damages in an amount to be proven at trial, which exceeds the  
5 jurisdictional minimum of this Court;
- 6 2. For prejudgment interest in accordance with California Civil Code §3287;
- 7 3. For attorneys' fees and cost of suit to the extent allowed by California law,  
8 including California Code of Civil Procedure §1036;
- 9 4. On the claim for inverse condemnation, all amounts recoverable under the  
10 California Constitution including prejudgment interest, attorney's fees, litigation  
11 expenses, expenses for consultants and experts, and other just compensation;  
12 and
- 13 5. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

14 **COZEN O'CONNOR**

15  
16  
17 Dated: \_\_3/12/18 \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
**HOWARD D. MAYCON**

*Lead Counsel for Subrogation Plaintiffs*

18  
19  
20 **The Law Offices of Shawn E. Caine**

21  
22 Dated: \_\_3/12/18 \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
**SHAWN E. CAINE**

*Lead Counsel for Subrogation Plaintiffs*

23  
24 **Grotefeld, Hoffmann, Schleiter, Gordon, Ochoa &**

25 **Evinger LLP**

26  
27 Dated: \_\_3/12/18 \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

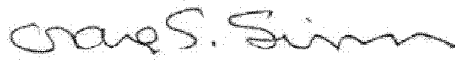
  
**MARK GROTEFELD**

*Lead Counsel for Subrogation Plaintiffs*

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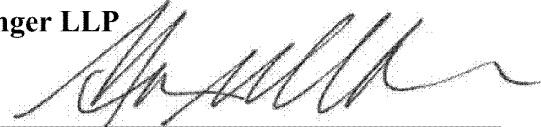
**Berger Kahn, A Law Corporation**

Dated: \_\_3/12/18\_\_

By:   
**CRAIG S. SIMON**  
*Lead Counsel for Subrogation Plaintiffs*

**Grotefeld, Hoffmann, Schleiter, Gordon, Ochoa &  
Evinger LLP**

Dated: \_\_3/12/18\_\_

By:   
**MAURA WALSH OCHOA**  
*Lead Counsel for Subrogation Plaintiffs*



1 **VII. JURY DEMAND**

2 **SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS** demand a trial by jury as to all claims in this action.

3  
4 **COZEN O'CONNOR**

5  
6 Dated: 3/12/18 \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
**HOWARD D. MAYCON**

*Lead Counsel for Subrogation Plaintiffs*

9  
10 **The Law Offices of Shawn E. Caine**

11 Dated: 3/12/18 \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
**SHAWN E. CAINE**

*Lead Counsel for Subrogation Plaintiffs*

13  
14 **Grotefeld, Hoffmann, Schleiter, Gordon, Ochoa &**  
15 **Evinger LLP**

16 Dated: 3/12/18 \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_


  
**MARK GROTEFELD**

*Lead Counsel for Subrogation Plaintiffs*

18  
19 **Berger Kahn, A Law Corporation**

20  
21 Dated: 3/12/18 \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
**CRAIG S. SIMON**

*Lead Counsel for Subrogation Plaintiffs*

23  
24 **Grotefeld, Hoffmann, Schleiter, Gordon, Ochoa &**  
25 **Evinger LLP**

26 Dated: 3/12/18 \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
**MAURA WALSH OCHOA**

*Lead Counsel for Subrogation Plaintiffs*

1 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

2 I, the undersigned, certify and declare as follows:

3 I am over the age of 18 years, and not a party to this action. My business address is 700  
4 Larkspur Landing Circle, Suite 280, Larkspur, CA 94939 which is located in the county where the  
mailing described below took place.

5 On the date stated below, I caused to be served in the manner indicated the following  
6 documents:

7 **MASTER COMPLAINT – SUBROGATION PLAINTIFFS**

8 on the parties involved addressed as follows:

9 **TO ALL PARTIES LISTED ON THE SERVICE LIST MAINTAINED BY CASEHOMEPAGE**

10 ☐ **By Personal Delivery:** I caused each such envelope to be delivered by hand to the parties  
listed above on \_\_\_\_\_.

11 ☐ **By Mail:** I caused each envelope, with postage thereon fully prepaid, to be placed in the United  
12 States mail at Larkspur, California. I am readily familiar with the business practice at my place  
of business for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States  
13 Postal Service. Correspondence so collected and processed is deposited with the United States  
Postal Service that same day in the ordinary course of business.

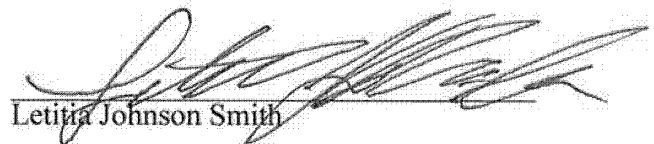
14 ☐ **By Facsimile:** By use of facsimile machine telephone number (415) 989-2802, I served a copy  
15 of the within document on the interested parties at the facsimile numbers listed. The  
transmission was reported as complete and without error.

16 ☐ **By Overnight Delivery:** I caused each envelope, with delivery fees provided for, to be  
17 deposited in a box regularly maintained by UPS or Federal Express. I am readily familiar with  
the business practice at my place of business for collection and processing of correspondence  
18 for overnight delivery and know that in the ordinary course of my business practice the  
document(s) described above will be deposited in a box or other facility regularly maintained  
19 by UPS or Federal Express or delivered to an authorized courier or driver authorized by UPS or  
Federal Express to receive documents on the same date that is placed at my place of business  
for collection

20 ☒ **By Electronic Mail Transmission:** By submitting a PDF format copy of such document via file  
21 transfer protocol (ftp) to CaseHomePage through the upload feature on March 12, 2018. The  
document(s) was transmitted by file transfer protocol (ftp) without error. Service will be deemed  
22 effective per the Electronic Service Agreement amongst the parties.

23 I certify and declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the  
24 foregoing is true and correct.

25 EXECUTED ON March 12, 2018

26   
27 Letitia Johnson Smith  
28